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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 8 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to enclose herewith the outcome documents of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement at its Ministerial Meeting, held in Havana from 27 to 30 April 2009, namely, the Final Document (annex I), the Statement on Zimbabwe (annex II), the Declaration of Solidarity with Mexico (annex III), the Special Declaration on the world economic and financial crisis (annex IV) and the Declaration on Palestine (annex V).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 69, 70, 78, 79, 80, 81, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 99, 100, 107, 110, 111, 112, 117 and 132.

(*Signed*) Abelardo **Moreno**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of
the Non-Aligned Movement

Annex I

MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
COORDINATING BUREAU
Havana, Cuba
27-30 April 2009

FINAL DOCUMENT

30 April 2009

FINAL DOCUMENT

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries,[1] met on 29 and 30 April 2009[2] in Havana, Cuba, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, with the primary objective of reviewing the preparations for the forthcoming XV Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement, which would be held in Sharm — el Sheikh, Egypt on 15 and 16 July 2009. Towards this end, they deliberated in an extensive manner on the existing, new and emerging global issues of collective concern and interest to the Movement and updated the Final Document adopted at the 15th NAM Ministerial Conference held at Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 29 and 30 July 2008. Inter alia they *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the Movement's abiding faith in and strong commitment to its Founding Principles,[3] ideals and purposes, particularly in establishing a peaceful and prosperous world, a just and equitable world order as well as to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

2. The Ministers *affirmed* the continued relevance and validity of all principled positions and decisions of the Movement as contained in the substantive outcome documents[4] of the 14th NAM Summit held in Havana, Cuba, 15-16 September 2006 and the preceding thirteen Summit Conferences of the Movement[5], as well as all preceding Ministerial Conferences or Meetings of the Movement. Likewise, they *expressed* their determination to preserve and act in keeping with the Bandung Principles and the purposes and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement in the present international juncture as *agreed* in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture[6] adopted in the 14th NAM Summit in Havana.

3. The Ministers *acknowledged* the NAM Chair's Report on the Movement's activities covering from the 14th NAM Summit held in Havana to date, which showed significant progress in the process of strengthening and revitalizing the Non-Aligned Movement.

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1 The list of NAM Member Countries appears in Annex I.

2 The Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau was preceded by the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting, in Havana on 27 and 28 April 2009.

3 The ten Founding Principles of NAM appears in Annex II.

4 The substantive documents adopted at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana are: the Final Document; Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture; the Document on the Methodology of the Non-Aligned Movement; the Declaration on Palestine; the Statement on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Nuclear Issue and the Plan of Action of the Non-Aligned Movement (2006-2009). All these documents can be downloaded from www.cubanoal.cu.

5 The preceding thirteen NAM Summit Conferences were held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1961; Cairo, United Arab Republic in 1964; Lusaka, Zambia in 1970; Algiers, Algeria in 1973; Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1976; Havana, Cuba in 1979; New Delhi, India in 1983; Harare, Zimbabwe in 1986; Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1989; Jakarta, Indonesia in 1992; Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in 1995; Durban, South Africa in 1998 and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2003. All the substantive outcome documents of these Summit Conferences can be downloaded from www.cubanoal.cu.

6 The principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture appear in Annex III.

CHAPTER I: GLOBAL ISSUES

Review of the International Situation

4. The Ministers *emphasized* that the present global scenario presents great challenges in areas of peace and security, economic development and social progress, human rights and the r of law to Non-Aligned Countries. They *affirmed* that many new areas of concern and challenges h emerged, particularly the current global financial and economic crisis, which warrant the renewa commitment by the international community to uphold and defend the purposes and principles the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and the principles of international law. In taking stock developments at the international level since the XIV Conference of Heads of States or Governm of the Movement, they *noted* that the collective desire of the Movement to establish a peaceful a prosperous world as well as a just and equitable world order remains encumbered by fundamen impediments. These impediments are in the form of, *inter alia*, the severe adverse impact of global financial and economic crises on the economic growth and development of develop countries which could lead to increasing poverty and deprivation in these countries, the continu lack of resources and underdevelopment of the majority of the developing world, on the one ha and in the form of, *inter alia*, the continuing lack of cooperation of and coercive and unilate measures imposed by some developed countries, on the other. The rich and powerful countr continue to exercise an inordinate influence in determining the nature and direction of internatio relations, including economic and trade relations, as well as the rules governing these relatio many of which are at the expense of developing countries.

5. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the Movement will remain guided in its endeavours by Founding Principles, the principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles a the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture adopted in the 1 NAM Summit in Havana, the UN Charter and international law. To this end, the Movement v *continue to uphold* the principles of sovereignty and the sovereign equality of States, territor integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of any State; *take* effective measures for t suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of peace, to defend, promote and encourage t settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international pea and security, and justice, are not endangered; *refrain* in international relation . from the threat use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any oth manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; *develop* friendly relatio based on respect for the principle of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples in th struggle against foreign occupation; *achieve* international cooperation based on solidarity amo peoples and governments in solving international problems of a political, economic, social, cultu or humanitarian character; and *promote and encourage* the respect for human rights a fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

6. The Ministers *noted* that the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges, including t multiple inter-related and mutually reinforcing current global crises, continue to impede efforts States to attain greater economic development and social progress, peace and security, a enjoyment of human rights and the rule of law. Global peace and security continue to elu humankind as a result of, *inter alia*, increasing tendency by certain States to resort to unilateralis and unilaterally imposed measures, non-fulfilment of the commitments and obligations assum under the relevant international legally binding instruments especially on weapons of ma destruction and conventional weapons treaties, terrorism, conflicts, violations of human rights a international humanitarian law, the use of double standards in international relations, t continuing failure and unwillingness of the majority of the developed countries to fulfil the commitments in the economic and social fields. They *underscored* the need for the internation

community to collectively redress these situations in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

7. Globalisation continues to present opportunities, challenges and risks to the future and viability of developing countries. The process of globalisation and trade liberalisation has produced uneven benefits among and within States and that the global economy has been characterised by slow and lopsided growth and instability. Furthermore, it has made the developing countries more vulnerable to the adverse impact of the financial and economic crises. In its present form, globalisation perpetuates or even increases the marginalisation of developing countries. Therefore, globalisation must be transformed into a positive force for change for all peoples, benefiting all countries, and contributing to the prosperity and empowerment of developing countries, not their continued impoverishment and dependence on the developed world. In addition, greater efforts must be made to generate a global strategy to prioritise the development dimension into global processes, and in the relevant multilateral institutions in order to enable developing countries to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalisation and trade liberalisation, including through the creation of an enabling external economic environment for development which requires greater coherence between the international trading, monetary and financial systems that should be universal, open, equitable, non-coercive, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory.

8. The revolution in information and communication technologies continue to change the world at a rapid speed and in a fundamental way, and has created a vast and widening digital divide between the developed and developing countries, which must be bridged if the latter are to benefit from the globalisation process. These new technological innovations must be made more easily available to developing countries in their efforts to modernise and revitalise their economies in pursuit of their developmental goals and well being of their populations. In this context, the achievement of these goals requires an enabling international environment and the honouring of commitments and pledges made by States, in particular the developed world.

9. The future will present as many challenges and opportunities as the past and the Movement must continue to *remain* strong, cohesive and resilient in order to address them and preserve the historic legacy of the Movement. The continued and relevance and validity of the Movement will depend, in large measure, on the unity and solidarity of each of its Member Countries as well as their ability to influence these changes positively. In this regard, the process of the revitalisation and strengthening of the Movement must continue to be advanced and consolidated.

10. The Ministers *recalled* the decision of the Summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), held in Algiers in July 1999, calling for the restoration of constitutional legality in States whose governments had come to power through unconstitutional means, and in this context, *encouraged* the Non-Aligned Countries to continue to uphold the democratic ideals consistent with the Founding Principles of the Movement.

11. The Ministers welcomed the designation by the UN General Assembly of April 22 as International Day of Mother Earth, and recognised that the earth and its ecosystems are home to humanity. They undertake to raise awareness about this issue.

Non-Aligned Movement: Role and Methods of Work

12. Recognising the aspirations of their peoples, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the Movement's irrevocable political and moral commitment and determination to and full respect for the Bandung Principles and those adopted at the Havana Summit in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the NAM in the Present International Juncture and the UN Charter as well as for their preservation and promotion, with a view to further consolidate and enhance the

Movement's role and position as the principal political platform representing the developing world in multilateral forums, in particular the UN. In this context, they *stressed* that achieving the principles, ideals and purposes of the Movement hinges upon the unity, solidarity and cohesion among its membership, firmly rooted on mutual respect, respect for diversity and tolerance.

13. The Ministers determined that if any member of the Movement suffers harm, whether this is economic, political or military in nature, or in terms of its security, or if a Member suffers harm as a result of the imposition of unilateral sanctions or embargos, the Movement should express its solidarity with the affected country through the provision of moral, material and other forms of assistance. To this end, the Ministers agreed to review the Movement's existing mechanisms and explore new mechanisms for rendering such assistance, if necessary.

14. The Ministers *recalled* that the Movement has been playing a key active, effective and central role, over the years, on issues of concern and vital importance to its members, such as decolonisation, apartheid, the situation in the Middle East including the question of Palestine, the maintenance of international peace and security, and disarmament. After almost half of a century of its existence, and having undergone many challenges and vicissitudes, it is timely and appropriate to sustain and further consolidate the process of strengthening and revitalising the Movement and to continue to undertake actions that allow the Movement to effectively and efficiently counter address the main challenges facing us today. In the context of existing and new threats and challenges, it is imperative for the Movement to continue to *promote* multilateralism, especially by *strengthening* the central role of the UN, *defending* the interests of developing countries and *preventing* their marginalisation.

15. The Ministers *expressed* their satisfaction at the performance and achievement of the Movement over the past forty-seventh years in preserving and promoting its ideals, principles and purposes as well as in pursuing the collective concerns and interests of its membership. In recognition of the wisdom and far-sightedness of the Founding Fathers[7], leaders of the Founding Countries[8] and other past leaders of the Movement, they *reaffirmed* the Movement's commitment to safeguard, uphold and further consolidate its principles, ideals and purposes.

16. In *rededicating* the Movement to its principles, ideals and purposes, and consistent with the afore-mentioned principled positions, which should be defended, preserved and promoted through greater efforts by the Movement and the existing mechanisms and arrangements of the Movement, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

> 16.1 Continue making progress in the process of revitalizing and strengthening the Movement with a view to achieving the purposes outlined in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture, which will enable the Movement to deal effectively with the challenges looming ahead. Consolidate the pro-active approach in the working dynamic of the Movement, maintaining and increasing our capacity to bring forth on behalf of the NAM concrete proposals in the debates and presentation of resolutions and other initiatives at the various United Nations organs and other international fora where NAM is represented. The NAM Plan of Action adopted at the 14th NAM Summit held in Havana shall be reviewed when necessary during Ministerial Meetings in order to evaluate its implementation and to update it, accordingly;

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7 The Founding Fathers of the NAM were President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, President Achmad Soekarno of Indonesia, President Gamal Abdul Nasser of the United Arab Republic, President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India.

8 The 25 Founding Countries of the Movement are Afghanistan, Algeria, Arab Republic of Yemen, Burma (now Myanmar), Cambodia, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Republic (now Egypt and Syrian Arab Republic) and Yugoslavia.

16.2 Disseminate the outcome documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau as official documents of the United Nations system, as appropriate;

16.3 Expand the NAM's scope wherever its members consider it more appropriate within the UN agencies or at other relevant international organizations or bodies, in accordance with the decisions adopted at the XIV NAM Summit Conference, held in Havana, in 2006, and 15th Ministerial Conference held in Tehran, in 2008;

16.4 *Strengthen and manifest* the unity and solidarity among the membership of the Movement, particularly with those Non-Aligned Countries whose peoples are living under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation, and with those experiencing external threats of use of force, acts of aggression or unilateral coercive measures, living in abject poverty or suffering ill-health, and victims of natural disasters, *bearing in mind* that the Movement cannot afford lack of unity and solidarity under those circumstances;

16.5 *Sustain* the process of reviewing, analysing and strengthening the positions of the Movement on international issues, with a view to *further ensure* the adherence to and promotion of its Founding Principles and the principles adopted at the 14th NAM Summit, as well as *further consolidate* the common denominators among its membership;

16.6 *Continue to review* the role of the Movement in the context of current realities and *improve*, as appropriate, its structure and methods of work, including through *strengthening* existing mechanisms and arrangements[9] and, *creating* new ones, as appropriate, and *utilising* them to the fullest, *convening* of regular meetings of such mechanisms and arrangements, *generating* a more focused and concise documentation, *strengthening* the role of the Chair as spokesperson of the Movement, working towards establishing a Back-up mechanism to assist the Chair, with the aim to continues promoting a more coordinated, effective and efficient Movement capable of responding in a timely manner to international developments affecting it and its Member Countries;

16.7 *Improve* the coordination of the work of the existing mechanisms of the Movement in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, Paris and The Hague in the work of the relevant UN organs and agencies, upon *identifying* their respective priority areas of concern and competence, *bearing in mind* the position of the Coordinating Bureau in New York as the focal point for coordination of the Movement;

16.8 *Expand and reinforce* the ability and capacity of the Movement for initiative, representation and negotiation, as well as its ethical, political and moral strength and influence;

16.9 *Continue to strengthen* the coordination and cooperation as well as formulation of common strategies on economic development and social progress issues with the Group of 77 and China (G-77) through the Joint Coordinating Committee of the G-77 and NAM (JCC)[10] in advancing the collective concerns and interests of developing countries at the relevant international forums particularly in the context of UN reform, and in expanding and

9 The existing mechanisms and arrangements include the Former Chair Countries and Troika (at the Summit, Ministerial and Ambassadorial levels); the Committee on Palestine (at the Ministerial and Ambassadorial level); the Coordinating Bureau in New York and its subsidiary bodies (Working Groups on Disarmament, Human Rights, Legal Matters, Peacekeeping Operations, Reform of the UN and GA Revitalisation, Reform of the Security Council, Review of Mandates of the UN programmes and activities, and Information); the Chapters in Geneva, The Hague, Vienna and UNESCO; and the Caucuses in the Security Council and in the Peace Building Commission.

10 The JCC of the G-77 and NAM was established in 1994 with the primary objective to enhance collaboration, avoid duplication of efforts and provide greater efficiency in the attainment of the common goals of the developing countries, as well as to harmonise and coordinate the activities of both groupings in the economic and social fields within the context of South-South and North-South cooperation.

deepening South-South cooperation. Such coordination must be guided by the Terms of Reference, adopted between both fora in 1994;

16.10 *Promote* coordination and cooperation between the G-77 and the NAM, wherever possible at all relevant multilateral fora to address issues of common concern to both groupings subject to their respective competencies;

16.11 *Expedite* its decision-making, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Cartagena Document on Methodology of the Movement[11] and the Document on the Methodology of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, through determined and timely action in order to contribute more effectively in the multilateral process, with the aim of enhancing its role and stature as a leading global force;

16.12 *Be* more proactive in addressing international developments which could adversely impact on the Movement and its Member Countries;

16.13 *Encourage* the interaction of the Ministers responsible for portfolios of relevance to the Movement, such as food production and agriculture, energy, culture, education, health, human resources, environment, information and communications, industry, science and technology, social progress, women and children, with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of the Movement and increasing the cooperation among its Member Countries in these areas;

16.14 *Expand and deepen* its interaction and cooperation with parliamentarians, civil society, including non-governmental organisations, and the private sector of Non-Aligned Countries on the recognition that they can perform a constructive role towards the attainment of the principles, ideals and purposes of the Movement;

16.15 *Support*, as a further manifestation of solidarity of the Movement, the candidatures of Non-Aligned Countries vis-à-vis non member countries, where appropriate, to the United Nations organs and bodies, including the Security Council and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, *bearing in mind* the ensuing obligation of such Countries whose candidatures are successful owing to such support, to defend, preserve and promote the concerns and interests of the Movement in those organs and bodies, without prejudice to their sovereign rights. The Ministers *also agreed* to consider working towards ensuring adequate representation of NAM in all international fora; and

16.16 Decide to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Movement in 2011, with a view to highlighting its achievements and further enhancing the unity and solidarity among its membership, as well as its role at the present international juncture.

International Law

17. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the continued relevance and validity of the Movement's principled positions concerning international law, as follows:

17.1 The Ministers *reemphasized* that the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles of international law are indispensable in preserving and promoting peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress, and human rights for

11 The Cartagena Document on Methodology of the Movement was adopted by the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Methodology, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia from 14 to 16 May 1996. Subsequently, it was endorsed by the Heads of State or Government of the Movement during their XII Summit, held in Durban, South Africa from 29 August to 3 September 1998.

all. In this context, UN Member States should renew their commitment to defend, preserve and promote the UN Charter and international law, with the aim of making further progress to achieving full respect for international law;

17.2 The Ministers *remained* concern at the unilateral exercise of extra-territorial criminal and civil jurisdiction of national courts not emanating from international treaties and other obligations arising from international law, including international humanitarian law. In this regard, they *condemned* the enactment of politically motivated laws at the national level directed against other States, and *stressed* the negative impact of such measures on the rule of international law as well as on international relations, and *called for* the cessation of all such measures;

17.3 The Ministers, while realizing the negative effects on international relations of the abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction, called upon States to refrain from such abuse and urged them to discuss this matter in the General Assembly of the United Nations aiming at identifying the scope and limits of implementation of this Principle and establish a mechanism to monitor such implementation and to prevent its abuse in the future;

17.4 The Ministers *reiterated* the need to eliminate unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade. They *urged* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to refrain from promulgating and applying them in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, *reaffirm* the freedom of trade and navigation.

18. *Recognising* the serious danger and threats posed by the actions and measures which seek to undermine international law and international legal instruments, as well as consistent with and guided by the Movement's principled positions thereof, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

18.1 *Identify and pursue* measures that may contribute towards achieving a peaceful and prosperous world as well as a just and equitable world order based on the UN Charter and international law;

18.2 Conduct external relations based on the ideals, principles and purposes of the Movement, the UN Charter and international law, as well as the "Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the UN", the "Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and the "Declaration on the Enhancement of Effectiveness of the Principles of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations";

18.3 Firmly *oppose* the unilateral evaluation and certification of the conduct of States as a means of exerting pressure on Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries;

18.4 Refrain from recognising, adopting or implementing extra-territorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures, and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on Non-Aligned Countries — threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment — and prevent them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, where such measures or laws constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law, the multilateral trading system as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States;[12] and in this

12 These include the "Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations" adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970.

regard, *oppose and condemn* these measures or laws and their continued application, persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them and *urge* other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other UN organs; *request* States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately;

18.5 *Support*, in accordance with international law, the claim of affected states, including the targeted states, to compensation for the damage incurred as a consequence of the implementation of extraterritorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws;

18.6 *Oppose*, while *reiterating* the utmost importance of preserving the delicate balance of rights and obligations of States as stipulated in the various international legally binding instruments to which they are party, the actions by a certain group of States to unilaterally reinterpret, redefine, redraft or apply selectively the provisions of these instruments to conform with their own views and interests and which might affect the rights of their States Parties as defined therein, and in this context, *work* towards ensuring that the integrity of these instruments is preserved by their States Parties;

18.7 Oppose all attempts to introduce new concepts of international law aimed at internationalising certain elements contained in the so-called extra-territorial laws of certain States through multilateral agreements;

18.8 *Endeavour* to generate further progress to achieve full respect for international law and, in this regard, commend the role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in promoting the peaceful settlement of international disputes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UN Charter and the Statute of the ICJ;

18.9 *Urge* the Security Council to make greater use of the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the UN, as a source of advisory opinions and interpretation of relevant norms of international law, and on controversial issues, *further urge* the Council to use the ICJ as a source of interpreting relevant international law, and *also urge* the Council to consider its decisions be reviewed by the ICJ, *bearing in mind* the need to ensure their adherence to the UN Charter, and international law;

18.10 *Invite* also the General Assembly, the other organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies duly authorized, to request advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities;

18.11 Continue to call for full respect of the ICJ advisory opinion of 9 July 2004 by Israel, the occupying Power, Member States and the United Nations and to consider the possibilities for requesting a further advisory opinion from the ICJ regarding the prolonged Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory since 1967;

18.12 The Non-Aligned States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) shall *continue to preserve* the integrity of the Statute and *ensure* that the ICC remains impartial and fully independent of political organs of the UN, which should not instruct or impede the functions of the ICC, *bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute;

18.13 The Non-Aligned States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC *call upon* those States, which have not yet done so, to consider to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC;

18.14 *Participate* actively and consistently in the future meetings on the crime of aggression, with a view to achieving an agreed provision thereof for inclusion in the Statute by 2009; and encourage NAM Member States to discuss other issues on the agenda of the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Rome Statute that will be held in Uganda in 2010;

18.15 The Non-Aligned States continued to underscore the necessity of the independence of the ICC in accordance with its judicial nature. They stated that the Security Council's responsibilities under the Charter of the UN should not limit the role of the Court as a judicial body. The Court should be empowered to pronounce on acts of aggression independently, when the states parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC have reached agreement on the definition of the crime of aggression.

18.16 *Oppose* all actions, in particular through the Security Council, aimed at establishing a process to grant immunity to the staff members of UN peacekeeping operations, which violate the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the ICC and damage the credibility and independence of the ICC; and

18.17 *Call upon* the Non-Aligned States Parties to the relevant treaties to work collectively to increase and enhance their representation and coordination in the bodies established through those treaties, and *support* the candidatures of their experts as a further manifestation of solidarity among them.

Promotion and Preservation of Multilateralism

19. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the promotion and preservation of multilateralism and the multilateral process, as follows:

19.1 The Movement *reaffirmed* that the UN, its Charter, and international law remain indispensable tools and central in the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security and the strengthening of international cooperation. While *acknowledging* its limitations, the UN, which represents near universal membership and a well-founded international legitimacy, and through it, multilateralism, remains the central multilateral forum for addressing the pressing global issues and challenges presently confronting all States. The responsibility for managing and achieving worldwide economic development and social progress as well as responding to threats to international peace and security must be shared among all States and exercised multilaterally through the UN, which must play the central role thereof;

19.2 *Remain seized* of and active in further deliberations in the UN General Assembly on the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, *bearing in mind* the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as respect for fundamental human rights. The Movement took note of the presentation by the Secretary General of the Report "Implementing the responsibility to protect" (document A/63/677);

19.3 The Movement also *reaffirmed* the commitment to discuss and define human security in the UN General Assembly, in conformity with the principles enshrined in the Charter. The Movement *stressed* that the national ownership and leadership, and capacity building are essential elements in the consideration of this issue. The Movement also *affirmed* that particular attention should be given to peoples under foreign occupation to ensure their unhindered accessibility to humanitarian assistance and the occupying powers fulfil their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law; and

19.4 The Movement *reiterated* its strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures that undermine the UN Charter and international law, and

further reiterated its commitment to promoting, preserving and strengthening multilateralism and the multilateral decision making process through the UN, by strictly adhering to its Charter and international law, with the aim of creating a just and equitable world order and global democratic governance, and not one based on monopoly by the powerful few.

20. The Ministers *affirmed* the role of South-South cooperation in the overall context of multilateralism as a continuing process, vital to confronting threats and challenges facing developing countries in advancing economic development and social progress, promoting and preserving peace and security, and promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law.

21. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

21.1 *Promote* and *work* towards creating a multi-polar world through the strengthening of multilateralism through the UN and the multilateral processes, which are indispensable in promoting and preserving the interests of Non-Aligned Countries;

21.2 *Initiate* further vigorous transparent and inclusive initiatives to achieve the realisation of multilateral cooperation in the areas of economic development and social progress, peace and security, and human rights for all and the rule of law, including through *enhancing* the Movement's unity, solidarity and cohesiveness on issues of collective concern and interests with the aim of shaping the multilateral agenda to embrace development as a priority, which should take into account the need for the developing and developed countries, and international institutions to intensify partnerships and coordinate their efforts and resources to effectively address all imbalances in the global agenda;

21.3 *Strengthen* the defence of the NAM's positions and its relevant agreements in the UN Security Council, through the NAM Coordinating Bureau and the NAM Caucus, in accordance with the Movement's principles;

21.4 *Work* towards achieving a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, *stressing* the value of multilateralism to achieve a balanced, development oriented and, successful conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations, and urge all States to fulfil their commitments to shape globalisation as a positive force and that its benefits are shared evenly by all;

21.5 *Strengthen* the comparative advantages of existing multilateral arrangements and institutions without compromising the principle of equitable geographical representation and equal partnerships, and *promote* the democratisation of the system of international governance in order to increase the participation of Non-Aligned Countries in international decision making;

21.6 *Oppose* unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures by certain States — which can lead to the erosion and violation of the UN Charter and international law, the use and threat of use of force, and pressure and coercive measures — as a means to achieving their national policy objectives; and

21.7 *Strengthen* South-South and triangular cooperation, including through enhancing the capacities of relevant institutions and mechanisms, as indispensable means to promote and preserve multilateralism and the multilateral process.

Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, and Non-Use or Threat of Use of Force

22. The Ministers *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the Movement's principled positions concerning peaceful settlement of disputes, and non-use or threat of use of force, as follows:

22.1 It is incumbent upon all States to defend, preserve and promote the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles of international law, in particular pacific settlement of disputes and the non-use or threat of use of force; and

22.2 The Movement *reiterated* the basic principle of the UN Charter that all States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the UN. The Movement *stressed* that the UN Charter contains sufficient provisions regarding the use of force to maintain and preserve international peace and security, and that achieving this goal by the Security Council should be strictly done in full conformity with the relevant Charter provisions. Resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not pose a threat to international peace and security must be avoided and in this regard, the Council should fully utilise the relevant Charter provisions, where appropriate, including Chapters VI and VIII. In addition, and consistent with the practice of the UN and international law, as pronounced by the ICJ, Article 51 of the UN Charter is restrictive and should not be re-written or re-interpreted.

23. The Ministers *expressed* their serious concern and complete dismay at the victimisation of innocent civilians in instances where force has been employed or sanctions have been imposed, including those authorised by the Security Council. In the spirit of the UN Charter, they *called on* all States to advance the principle of the non-use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes as a means of achieving collective security rather than the threat of force or use of force, bearing in mind "that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest" as stipulated in the UN Charter.

24. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

24.1 *Call upon* the international community to renew its commitment to uphold and defend the principles of the UN Charter and international law as well as the means envisaged in the UN Charter for the pacific settlement of dispute and non-resort to the threat or use of force;

24.2 *Promote* and *preserve* dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-faith dialogue, which would contribute towards peace and security, *taking into account* the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the UN Charter, the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, and the Declaration on the Enhancement of Effectiveness of the Principles of Refraining from the Threat of Use of Force in International Relations;

24.3 *Strengthen* the role of the Movement in peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, confidence building, and post-conflict peacebuilding and rehabilitation in or between Non-Aligned Countries, in particular through seriously identifying concrete measures to expedite the creation of a NAM mechanism in this regard, whose terms of reference must be in conformity with its Founding Principles, the UN Charter and international law. Any such mechanism should be based on the consent of the States concerned;

24.4 *Oppose* and condemn labelling of NAM countries and peoples by certain States through use of pejorative terms as well as systematic vilification of other States to exert political pressure;

24.5 *Oppose* and *condemn* the categorisation of countries as good or evil based on unilateral and unjustified criteria, and the adoption of the doctrine of pre-emptive attack, including attack by nuclear weapons by certain States, which is inconsistent with international law, in particular the international legally-binding instruments concerning nuclear disarmament; and *further oppose and condemn* all unilateral military actions, or use of force or threat of use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Non-Aligned Countries, which constitute acts of aggression and blatant violations of the principles of the UN Charter, including non-interference in the internal affairs of States; and

24.6 *Promote*, in ensuring international peace and security, the diversity of approaches to development consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law as a core value of the Non-Aligned Countries.

Culture of Peace, Dialogue among Civilisations, Religions and Cultures, and Cultural Diversity

25. The Ministers *noted* that the world today is composed of States with diverse political, economic, social and cultural systems and religions determined by their history, traditions, values and cultural diversity, whose stability can be guaranteed by the universal recognition of their right to freely determine their own approach towards progressive development. In this context, they *emphasized* that respect for the diversity of such systems and approach is a core value which relations and cooperation among States in an increasingly globalising world should be based on, with the aim of contributing to establishing a peaceful and prosperous world, a just and equitable world order, and an environment conducive to exchanging human experiences. They *underscored* that the promotion of dialogue among civilisations and the culture of peace globally, in particular through the full implementation of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilisations and its Programme of Action and the Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace could contribute towards that end.

26. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that dialogue among cultures, civilisations and religions should be a durable process and that, in the current international environment, it is not an option but an imperative, sound and productive tool to promote economic and social development, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law in guaranteeing a better life for all. They *further reaffirmed* in this context that tolerance is a fundamental value of international relations.

27. The Ministers, bearing in mind that the current challenges facing international community need to be resolutely addressed by all nations through multilateralism, *welcomed* the initiative of "Coalition for Peace" based on high ethical values, justice and friendship in order to denounce acts of aggression, and to reinforce and promote stability, tranquillity and durable peace throughout the world.

28. The Ministers *recognized* the valuable contributions of all religions and beliefs to modern civilization and the contribution that dialogue among civilizations can make to an improved awareness and understanding of common values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

29. The Ministers *reiterated* the need to continue working towards the promotion of dialogue and understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions and *reaffirmed* their commitment to work together to prevent cultural homogenization and domination or incitement to hatred and discrimination, combat defamation of religions and develop better ways for promoting tolerance, respect for and protection of the freedom of religion and belief, including the right to preserve one's cultural identity. They stressed the role which the General Assembly and the relevant UN organs can play in that respect in particular through furthering the much-needed dialogue on those important and sensitive issues.

30. The Ministers *recognised* the ever-increasing significance and relevance of a culture of living in harmony with nature, which is inherent in nomadic civilisation, in today's world. They, therefore, *welcomed* the efforts of States to preserve and develop nomadic culture and traditions in modern societies.

31. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the Convention on the protection and promotion of Diversity of cultural expressions by UNESCO, which entered into force in 18 March 2007, as a major contribution to the international community in the definition of a framework of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and *called upon* United Nations Member States to consider becoming parties to this Convention.

32. The Ministers *welcomed* the fruitful efforts of the NAM Members, including the initiatives by the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar and the Republic of Senegal, in exploring the opportunities for co-existence and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilisations through holding numerous conferences and forums in order to identify and develop strategies and programmes, at the national, regional and international levels that contribute to rapprochement among religions, cultures and civilisations,[13] including other inter-governmental processes and initiatives, such as the Third Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace, held on 25 September 2008 in New York.

33. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment to the Tehran Declaration and Programme of Action (TDPA) adopted at the Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3rd and 4th September 2007, and recognized the important role of the NAM Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity established in Tehran.

34. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the first High Level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Inter-religious and Intercultural Cooperation for Peace held on 4-5 October 2007 at the joint initiative of Pakistan and Philippines and the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Inter-Faith Dialogue on the initiative of King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, held on 12-13 November 2008, under agenda item "Culture of Peace".

35. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

35.1 *Emphasize* the need to continue strengthening the dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-cultural dialogue, inter alia through the World Programme for the Dialogue among Civilizations and the Alliance of Civilizations;

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13 The conferences, forums and initiatives by the Republic of Indonesia, inter alia, "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community" (2005); by the Kingdom of Morocco, inter alia, the "Rabat Declaration on Encouraging Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations through Effective and Sustainable Initiatives" (2005), Judeo-Muslim Congress (2005-2006), and the "International Charter to Prevent any Defamation of Religions, Beliefs, Sacred Values and Prophets, while Respecting the Freedom of Expression" (2006); by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, inter alia, the "Strategy on Enlightened Moderation" as proposed by Pakistan and adopted by the Organisation of Islamic Conference; by the Republic of the Philippines, inter alia, the Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace (2005), Informal Summit on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace (2005), Regional Conference of Asian and Pacific Countries on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace (2006), Launching of the Tri-Partite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace (2005); by the State of Qatar, inter alia, the Inter-Faith Dialogue Conference (2006), Alliance of Civilisation (2006), US-Islamic World Forum (2006), Conference for Religions Dialogue (2005), Islamic-American Dialogue (2004), Forum on Islam-Christian Dialogue (2003) and Dialogue Among Civilisations and Senegal, International Conference on Islam Christianity Dialogue held in 2007.

35.2 *Oppose* all attempts to impose on any State any particular model of political, economic, legal or cultural system, which may lead to global instability and weaken the security of States and their peoples;

35.3 *Strive* to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization as well as uniculturalism in the co. 'ext of globalization, through increased intercultural dialogue and exchange guided by enhancing respect for and observance of cultural diversity;

35.4 *Promote* a culture of peace based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination, prevention of violence, promotion of non-violence, strict adherence to the principles of international relations as enshrined in the UN Charter, and full realisation of the right to development;

35.5 *Promote* respect for the diversity of religions, beliefs, and cultures, and for prophets, religious symbols and Personalities, as part of the universal respect for peoples and civilizations and common heritage belonging to humankind;

35.6 Promote the important role of education in the promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, religions and cultures;

35.7 Continue to enhance the efforts of the NAM members in promoting the culture of peace, and dialogue among civilisations, religions and cultures, including by organising international and regional conferences and forums;

35.8 Call for an active participation and engagement of all NAM members in the Special NAM Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development to be held from 1 to 3 December 2009 in Manila, Philippines, on the initiative of the Government of the Philippines;

35.9 *Initiate* discussions with a view to elaborate an international instrument on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, including ways to eliminate defamation of religions, and discrimination based on religion or belief;

35.10 *Contribute* to the implementation of the agreements contained in the Tehran Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity and, in this context, promote a NAM initiative on the subject in the Human Rights Council or the United Nations General Assembly as soon as possible.

Defamation of Religions

36. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their strong belief in the need to *stress* moderation of all religions and beliefs and to promote understanding through dialogue within and across religions. In this connection, they are deeply alarmed at the rising trends of discriminatory national laws and policies adopted and exercised against any religion, stigmatizing groups of people on the basis of religions under variety of pretexts relating to security and illegal immigration, particularly people from certain ethnicities and religious minorities following the events of 11 September 2001.

37. The Ministers, bearing in mind that defamation of religions is being wrongly justified on the ground of the right to freedom of expression, *emphasized* that everyone has the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of expression, and that exercise of these rights carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to limitations as are provided for by law and are necessary for respect of the rights and reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, public health or morals.

38. The Ministers considered, in this regard, the importance of promoting full respect of all religions and cultures among all States, with a view to promoting and ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression while preventing abuses and incitement to religious hatred that could contribute to undermining the ongoing efforts to foster a culture of peace based on mutual respect and tolerance among religions, cultures and civilisations, as provided for in the international human rights instruments to which States are parties.

39. The Ministers *expressed* concern at the negative stereotyping of religions, insults to and defamation of religious personalities, holy books, scriptures and symbols, which impede the enjoyment of human rights including the right to worship and manifest religion without fear of coercion, violence or reprisal. They *deplored* all acts of ideological and physical violence and assaults, and incitements thereto, against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, and those acts directed against the holy symbols, sites or places of worship of all religions. The Ministers *underlined* the need to address these disturbing instances through appropriate measures at the national and international level, including legal measures to provide adequate protection against acts of religious hatred that constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence resulting from defamation of religions in conformity with existing instruments of international law. They also *underlined* the unacceptability of any attempt to restrict the freedom of worship by any religious group in any circumstance.

40. The Ministers *underlined* the important role of education in the promotion of tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief.

Right to Self-Determination and Decolonisation

41. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination, as follows:

41.1 The Movement *stressed* the fundamental and inalienable right of all peoples, including all non-self governing territories, as well as those territories under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination to self determination, the exercise of which, in the case of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination, remains valid and essential to ensure the eradication of all these situations and to guarantee universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

41.2 The Movement *reaffirmed* the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence on the basis of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and *expressed* its unwavering support to the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the UN Special Committee on Decolonisation; and *called for* their immediate implementation; and

41.3 The Movement *remained concerned* at the loss, destruction, removal, theft, pillage, illicit movement or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism or damage, directed against cultural property in areas of armed conflict and territories that are occupied.

42. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to preserve, defend and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

42.1 *Strongly support* the work and activities of the UN Special Committee on Decolonisation, *underlines* the necessity of reinforcing the importance of its decisions and again *urge* the Administering Powers to grant their full support to the activities of the Committee and fully cooperate with this UN body;

42.2 *Request* the colonialist countries to pay full compensation for the economic, social and cultural consequences of their occupation, bearing in mind the right of all people who were or are still subjected to colonial rule or occupation to receive fair compensation for the human and material losses they suffered as a result of colonial rule or occupation;

42.3 *Strongly condemn* the ongoing brutal suppression of the legitimate aspirations to self-determination of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation in various regions of the world;

42.4 *Urge* UN Member States to fully implement the decisions and resolutions of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) concerning the return of cultural properties to the peoples who were or still under colonial rule or occupation, and in this regard, *further urge* UNESCO to identify the stolen or illegally exported cultural properties in accordance with the relevant conventions on the subject, and *also urge* the process of returning these properties to their countries of origin, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, be expedited, *bearing in mind* the right of the Non-Aligned Countries to maintain and conserve their national heritage as it constitutes the foundation of their cultural identity;

42.5 *Renew its call* to UN Member States to speed up the process of decolonisation towards the complete elimination of colonialism, and including by supporting the effective implementation of the Plan of Action of the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001-2010);

42.6 The Ministers expressed grave concern over the recent decision by the United Kingdom, the Administering Power, to suspend the Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the democratically elected House of Assembly and the Cabinet, and in this regard, called for the urgent restoration of the constitutional government in the Turks and Caicos Islands, pursuant to the Constitutional Order of 2006;

42.7 *Work* towards the full implementation of the principle of self-determination with respect to the remaining territories within the framework of the Programme of Action of the Special Committee on Decolonisation, in accordance with the wishes of the people consistent with the UN Charter and the relevant UN resolutions;[14]

42.8 *Oppose* any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a State, which is incompatible with the UN Charter; and

42.9 *Call on* the Government of the United States to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, and *urges* the Government of the United States to return the occupied land and installations on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation; and

42.10 *Work actively* to have the U.N. General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects.

United Nations: Follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Millennium Declaration and the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Summits and Conferences

43. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the UN Charter provides a balance among the purposes and principles of the Organisation that encompass all pertinent issues, including economic and social

14 The relevant UN resolutions include General Assembly resolution 55/146, which proclaims 2001 to 2010 decade as the Second Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

development, peace and security, and human rights and rule of law, and that the Millennium Declaration as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome provide the twenty-first century perspective of that balance. They *further reaffirmed* that the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges faced by all States in these areas are inter-connected and that these could be addressed by acting at a sufficiently early stage with the full range of available peaceful means as envisaged in the UN Charter and in a manner that would ensure the preservation of its purposes and principles, the intergovernmental character of the Organisation and the required balance among its principal organs, as well as the neutrality and impartiality of its undertakings in these areas.

44. The Ministers *reiterated their* disappointment at the provisions contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome that did not fully take into account the concerns and interests of developing countries, especially on critical and crucial issues relating to development, official development assistance and trade and they also *expressed* their disappointment at the lack of implementation by developed countries of many of the commitments on those issues. They *further expressed* their disappointment at the inability of the World Summit to agree on the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They *noted* that the World Summit Outcome, in spite of its limitations, could serve as a workable basis for UN Member States to move forward the process of strengthening and updating the UN to meet existing and emerging threats to economic and social development, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law. They *further noted* that while the development cluster of the World Summit Outcome fell short of the expectations of developing countries, there were positive elements, which could be used as a platform for actively promoting the implementation of commitments made in previous major UN summits and conferences.

45. The Ministers *remained concerned* by the lack of and/or uneven progress made by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in achieving the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard *reiterating* the importance of strengthening global partnership in the follow-up to and implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

46. The Ministers *drew particular attention* to the decision of some donor countries to establish timetables for the attainment of the 0.7 per cent target of GNP to developing countries by 2015 as ODA and 0.15 per cent to 0.2 per cent to the least developed countries (LDCs) by 2010, and *expressed* concern at the overall decline in Official Development Assistance in 2006 and 2007. They *agreed* to highlight the importance of the ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum as the focal point within the United Nations system for holistic consideration of issues of international development cooperation with participation of all relevant stakeholders, including for monitoring the progress made towards achieving those targets. They reiterated the need to establish ODA timetables by those developed countries, which have not yet done so, in order to assist developing countries to meet the MDG's target in a timely manner.

47. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that economic and social development are the centrepiece of the objectives and operational activities of the UN. The achievement of the internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADG), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), should continue to be the relevant framework of the development activities of the UN system.

48. The Ministers underlined the insufficient and uneven progress achieved in the effective implementation of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals including the MDG's, and noted with deep concern that many countries, particularly from Africa, have fallen behind and are unlikely

to achieve those Goals by the target date. In this regard, the Ministers stressed the importance of securing the effective and full implementation of the agreed development goals and commitments, including the strengthening of the global partnership for development, based on the recognition of national ownership and development strategies. They further emphasized that economic and social development must be at the highest priority of the United Nations Agenda.

49. The Ministers *emphasized* the need for a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries and called for the continued formulation of proposals to address significant debt relief for middle-income developing countries including implementation of initiatives.

50. They stressed the important role of the United Nations in addressing issues concerning international trade and development, as well as the persistent systemic inequities in international economic relations, in particular the slow progress in enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in the International, Financial and Monetary Institutions, which are to the detriment of developing countries. They also underlined the need for a comprehensive and structural reform of the global financial and economic governance and architecture in order to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system that strengthens and broadens the participation of developing countries in international economic decision making and norm setting. In that context, they also underscored the need to strengthen and implement the development dimension in the series of international economic, financial and trade negotiations, including inter alia on the issue of intellectual property. The Ministers reiterated the call for the international community, the United Nations system, and international organizations and institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to translate all commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the economic, social and related fields into concrete and specific actions in order to, inter alia, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and calls for the efficient use of monitoring and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that these commitments and actions are effectively implemented.

51. The Ministers *stressed* the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and actions agreed upon by the international community, and resolves to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustained economic growth, poverty and hunger eradication and sustainable development.

52. Consistent with, and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to continue to undertake the following measures, among others:

52.1 *Actively engage* in the follow-up process and the implementation of the commitments contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome and its Development Follow up resolution and the Millennium Declaration, as well as the international development goals agreed at the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in a manner that would advance the principled positions of the Movement towards the issues under consideration. To this end, the Movement *shall insist,* in close cooperation and coordination with the Group of 77 and China, that the follow-up process of these conferences and summits, must remain inclusive, open-ended and transparent in order to ensure that the interests and priorities of the Non-Aligned Countries are duly taken into account in the final outcome of that process;

52.2 *Pursue* the issues of fundamental importance to the Movement in the context of follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Millennium Declaration, that have been omitted

from the outcome document or yet to be explored in the UN such as disarmament, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and arms control;

52.3 *Call* for international support for South-South cooperation, which complements North-South cooperation, including regional, inter-regional and triangular cooperation and in this context, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of holding the UN Conference on South-South Cooperation as decided by the General Assembly to be held on 22-24 June 2009, and to work towards achieving its full success. In that regard, they welcomed the offer of the government of Kenya to host that conference,

52.4 *Agree* to convene a Special Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the issue of Poverty Eradication as early as possible;

52.5 *Welcome* the proposal made by the Secretary-General, to convene a Summit in 2010 to review the implementation of the MDGs. They c*alled upon* Member States, in particular major donor countries, to participate at the highest level in the 2010 Summit to review implementation of the MDGs and *actively engage* in the deliberations leading to the review of the progress made, take stock of existing gaps in the achievement of the MDG's, identify actions needed to ensure achievement of these goals, including in strengthening international cooperation, and to ensure that the achievement of these goals gets back on track and the momentum is maintained;

52.6 *Reiterate* the importance of a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive mechanism, in order to provide for adequate follow up of the implementation of the mandates agreed to in Monterrey and in Doha, in addition to holding a follow up Financing for Development Conference in 2013, and recalling the mandate of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, urged ECOSOC to reach a speedy conclusion on the establishment of such a mechanism, with a view to final action by the General Assembly as early as possible at its 64th session.

United Nations: Institutional Reform

A. Reform of the United Nations

53. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the institutional reform of the UN, as follows:

53.1 The UN remains the central and indispensable forum for addressing issues relating to international cooperation for economic development and social progress, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law, based on dialogue, cooperation and consensus-building amongst States. In this context, the Movement attaches great importance to the strengthening of the role of the UN and *stresses* that efforts should be made to develop its full potential;

53.2 The purpose of reform is to make the UN development system more responsive, efficient and effective in its support to developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, on the basis of their national development strategies, and that reform efforts should enhance organisational efficiency and achieve concrete development results;

53.3 The reform of the UN, which remains a collective agenda and high priority for the Movement, is a dynamic and ongoing process and not an end in itself in accordance with the parameters for the objective and scope of the review exercise set out by the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Millennium Declaration. Reform of the UN must be comprehensive,

transparent, inclusive and balanced and pursued in an effective and accountable manner, fully respecting the political nature of the Organisation as well as its intergovernmental, universal and democratic character, consistent with the Charter. In this context, the voice of every Member State must be heard and respected during the reform process irrespective of the contributions made to the budget of the Organisation, while *stressing* at any reform measure should be decided by Member States through an intergovernmental process in accordance with the Charter;

53.4 The Ministers *emphasized* the need for the payment of assessed contributions by major contributors, which is critical to the financial stability of the Organization, to be made timely, in full and without conditions so as to enable the UN to carry out its mandates effectively. A reformed UN must be responsive to the entire membership, faithful to its founding principles and capable of carrying out its mandate;

53.5 The impact of UN reform on developing countries is yet to be felt given the continuous decline in the resources made available to the UN for multilateral development cooperation. The Ministers, while recognizing the steps taken by the General Assembly when adopted its resolution 63/260 aimed at improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of the development-related activities, *underscored* the need for a substantially larger allocation of resources to strengthen the development pilar of the United Nations, which includes that Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, Regional Commissions and the Development Account. In this context, the Ministers *expressed* particular concern at the fact that the current system of financing of the Development Account has failed to work and stressed the need to address the perennial issue of the funding mechanism for the Account, as a matter of priority, in order to provide a predictable and sustainable funding to the Account. The success of UN reform can only be judged in terms of a collective assessment of the potential improvements in the functioning of the Organisation while preserving the interests of all developing countries. In this context, UN reform shall be strictly approved by the General Assembly and its ultimate goal shall not be to cut in the UN budget and resources. Should reforms however release part of existing resources, such resources shall be ultimately redirected to support activities and programmes related to international cooperation for development;

53.6 The objectives of UN reform, which should include the *strengthening* of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC as well as *reforming* the Security Council and other relevant UN bodies while *addressing* at the same time the systemic issues which may arise as a result, are:

(a) to *strengthen* multilateralism and the inclusive multilateral decision-making process, *providing* the UN with a substantive capacity to fully and effectively meet the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter, and at *consolidating* its democratic and inter-governmental character and its transparency in the discussion and implementation of decisions by Member States;

(b) to *strengthen and update* the role of the Organisation, as the pre-eminent and indispensable forum, by *developing* its full potential in addressing threats and challenges to economic development and social progress, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law which could be achieved through the implementation of all of its mandates, decisions and resolutions, *bearing in mind* that a stronger UN that responds more effectively to their collective needs is in their common interest;

(c) to *promote* greater democracy, effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability within the UN system;

(d) to *strengthen* the role of the Organisation in promoting international cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security and in particular for development and in

implementing the internationally-agreed development goals, in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Development Goals, through the provision of adequate resources and effective follow-up mechanisms. In this context, any UN reform proposal should also address systemic issues and requirement for additional human and financial resources that may arise as a result; and

(e) to *mainstream* the development dimension within the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the economic sectors of the UN system, including in the areas of sustainable development, policy space, South-South cooperation social and environmental responsibility and accountability, *bearing in mind* the aim of enabling the full participation of peoples from the South in the international decision and rule-making economic processes, and *ensuring* their access to and full enjoyment of the benefits of the international economy.

53.7 In *acknowledging* the interconnectedness of economic and social development, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law, efforts should be made to ensure that any effort to transform the UN into a more effective instrument for preventing conflict should take into account the need for *a* balanced coherent and comprehensive approach, in accordance with its Charter and international law, in order to enhance conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict peace-building strategies with the aim of achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development. In this context, it is critical that all principal organs of the UN play an active role in evolving and implementing a more effective collective security system, in accordance with their respective functions and powers;

53.8 It is indispensable for UN Member States to develop common perceptions and agreed approaches to address existing, new and emerging threats and challenges to international peace and security as well as the root causes of conflict. Such common perceptions and approaches to collective security would only be legitimate if they are developed in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and by all Member States acting together. The active participation of each and every principal organ of the UN is crucial, acting both in the exercise of its respective functions and powers, without upsetting the balance as established by the Charter thereof;

53.9 Efforts to strengthen the contribution of civil society, non-governmental organisations and the private sector to the work of the UN and its bodies through the established consultative arrangements should continue to be pursued, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and should serve the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Such contribution should seek, *inter alia*, to address in particular the obstacles that developing countries are experiencing in mobilising the resources and in obtaining the technology and capability needed to implement their sustainable development programmes;

53.10 The Ministers *reiterated* the Movement's principled position regarding the review of mandates of the United Nations programme and activities, as contained in the Final Document of the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, as well as the joint letter, dated 3 January 2007, signed by the Chairs of NAM and the Group of 77 and China, issued as an official document of the United Nations (A/61/693); and

53.11 The Ministers *acknowledged* the conclusion of the mandate review process and *took note* of resolution 62/278, in particular, paragraph 4 by which the General Assembly call upon its relevant bodies and subsidiary organs, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the established regulations and rules governing programme planning, to continue improving the implementation of mandates and addressing the continuing validity of legislative decisions and the effective coordination among units of the Secretariat and other structures of the United Nations system.

54. The Ministers *expressed* satisfaction over the high level of coordination and activism reached by the JCC, between NAM and G-77 and China, in following up various aspects of the UN reform, which has placed them as key players, also contributing to the advancement of the interests of the developing countries.

55. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to continue pursue the following measures:

55.1 *Promote* the concerns and interests of developing countries in the reform process, ensure its successful outcome, and *promote and preserve* the integrity and respective functions and powers of the General Assembly, the ECOSOC, and the Security Council as defined in the Charter;

55.2 *Oppose* proposals that seek**;** (a) to transform the democratic and intergovernmental nature of the UN as well as its oversight and monitoring processes including any proposal that seeks to undermine the role of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly; (b) to impose an artificial cap on budget levels; (c) to fund more activities from within the existing pool of resources; or (d) to redefine the Charter-based functions and powers of its principal organs on budgetary related issues;

55.3 *Engage* constructively in consultations and work towards, in particular through ensuring the implementation of the relevant UN decisions and resolutions thereof: (a) *revitalising* the work of the General Assembly, in view of its central role and position as the chief deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the UN; (b) *strengthening* the role of the ECOSOC as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, and monitoring the implementation of development programmes; (c) *democratising* the Security Council as an effective forum in the maintenance of international peace and security; and (d) *reforming* the Secretariat and its management in order to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of all mandates and to provide the highest level of accountability and transparency, at all levels, within the Secretariat and from the Secretariat to Member States through the establishment of a clear and implementable accountability framework;

55.4 *Enhance* the global partnership for development that is necessary to fully realize the outcomes of all major UN summits and conferences in the economic, social and related fields;

55.5 *Oppose* the tendency to equate reform of the UN with greater empowerment of the Security Council, *mindful* of the need to keep the balance among the functions and powers of the principal organs of the UN;

55.6 *Ensure* that the UN is provided with sufficient resources and on a timely basis needed to fully implement all mandated programmes and activities, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, including evolving a mechanism to monitor their effective implementation;

55.7 *Promote*, in close cooperation with the Group of 77 and China, the allocations of additional resources to further strengthen the development pillar of the United Nations;

55.8 *Maintain* close inter-governmental oversight and review of all proposals, which are yet to be considered and acted upon by the General Assembly, as well as those, which are being implemented; and

55.9 *Preserve* the unity of purpose and action achieved by NAM and the G-77 and China through the JCC in following up on the various aspects of the UN reform in order for the

interests and concerns of developing countries to be adequately reflected in the final outcome of this process.

B. Relationship among the Principal Organs of the United Nations

56. The Ministers *underscored* the need for UN Member States to fully respect the functions and powers of each principal organ of the UN, in particular the General Assembly, and to maintain the balance among these organs within their respective Charter-based functions and powers. They *stressed* that the Security Council must fully observe all Charter provisions as well as all General Assembly resolutions, which clarify its relationship with the latter organ and other principal organs. In this context, they *affirmed* that Article 24 of the Charter does not necessarily provide the Security Council with the competence to address issues which fall within the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, including in the areas of norm-setting, legislation, administrative and budgetary matters, and establishing definitions, *bearing in mind* that the Assembly is primarily tasked with the progressive development of international law and its codification.[15] *The Ministers expressed their grave concern over* the increasing and continuing encroachment by the Council on issues which clearly fall within the functions and powers of other principal organs of the UN and their subsidiary bodies. They *further stressed* that close cooperation and coordination among all principal organs is highly indispensable in order to enable the UN to remain relevant and capable of meeting the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges.

57. The Ministers *stressed* that while Member States have conferred on the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security pursuant to Article 24 (1) of the UN Charter and in carrying out its duties under this responsibility, the Council acts on their behalf. In this context, they *further stressed* that the Council should report and be accountable to the General Assembly in accordance with Article 24 (3) of the Charter.

58. The Ministers *reiterated* its concern over the continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council through addressing issues which traditionally fall within the competence of the latter organs, and the attempts to enter areas of norm-setting, administrative and budgetary matters and establishing definitions which fall within the purview of the Assembly.

59. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

59.1 *Urge* all States to uphold the primacy of and full respect for the provisions of the UN Charter pertaining to the functions and powers of the Assembly, *call on* the Presidents of the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and the Security Council to conduct regular discussions and coordination among themselves regarding the agenda and programme of work of the respective principal organs that they represent in order to establish increased coherence and complementarity among these organs in a mutually reinforcing manner, respectful of each others' mandates, and with a view to generating a mutual understanding among them, with whom the members of the respective organs that they represent have vested in good faith their trust and confidence;

59.2 *Welcome* as a step forward the informal meeting between the July's 2008 President of the Council, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and UN Member States on the preparation of the annual report of the Security Council and *call* for more regular interactions between future

15 In accordance with Article 13 (1) of the UN Charter.

July's Presidency of the Security Council and the wider membership of the United Nations, which can help enhance the quality of such reports;

59.3 *Call on* the Security Council to submit a more comprehensive and analytical annual report to the General Assembly, assessing the work of the Council, including such cases in which the Council has failed to act, as well as the views expressed by its members during the consideration of the agenda items under its consideration;

59.4 *Call on* the Security Council, pursuant to Articles 15 (1) and 24 (3) of the UN Charter, to submit special reports for the consideration of the General Assembly;

59.5 *Call on* the Security Council to ensure that its monthly assessments are comprehensive and analytical, and issued in a timely fashion. The General Assembly may consider proposing parameters for the elaboration of such assessments;

59.6 *Call on* the Security Council to fully take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly on matters relating to international peace and security, consistent with Article 11 (2) of the Charter; and

59.7 *Oppose and stop* attempts to shift issues under the agenda of the General Assembly or the ECOSOC to the Security Council, and the encroachment by the latter on the functions and powers of the Assembly.

C. Revitalisation of the Work of the General Assembly

60. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the validity and relevance of the principled positions of the Movement concerning the revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly, as follows:

60.1 The role and authority of the General Assembly, including in questions related to international peace and security, as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN,[16] and its inter-governmental and democratic character as well as that of its subsidiary bodies, which have immensely contributed to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the goals of the Organisation, must be respected. Its prerogative as the chief oversight organ of the UN, including on management and procurement for peacekeeping operations, must also be respected; and

60.2 The revitalization of the work of the General Assembly — which must be guided by the principles of democracy, transparency and accountability and achieved through open-ended and inclusive consultations – is a critical component of the comprehensive reform of the UN, and its objectives should continue to strengthen the role and position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nation, bearing in mind that the improvement of its procedural and working methods is only a first step towards a more substantive improvements and revitalization of the Assembly; and to restore and enhance the role and authority of the General Assembly, including in the maintenance of international peace and security as provided for in the Charter, through, *inter alia*, fully respecting its functions and powers and strengthening its relationship and coordination with other principal organs, in particular the Security Council.

61. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to continue to implement the following measures, among others:

16 As affirmed in the Millennium Declaration, and reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document as well as in other relevant General Assembly resolutions.

61.1 *Support* all ongoing and continuous efforts to strengthen the central role and authority of the Assembly, *taking into account* the criteria of relevance and efficiency; *oppose* any reform proposal that seeks to challenge the central role and authority of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN; and *oppose* any approach that seeks to or could result in undermining or minimizing the achievements of the General Assembly, diminishing its current role and functioning, or raising questions about its relevance and credibility;

61.2 *Call on* UN Member States to renew their commitment and political will to implement General Assembly decisions and resolutions on a non-selective and non-discriminatory basis, since the failure to do so is at the root of many unresolved questions;

61.3 *Ensure* that the UN is provided with the resources needed to fully implement all mandated programmes and activities, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

61.4 *Reaffirm* the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, as stipulated in Articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 35 of the Charter of the UN, where appropriate using the procedures set forth in rules 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

61.5 The Ministers *reiterated* the role of the General Assembly in the maintenance of international peace and security and *expressed* grave concern at instances wherein the Security Council fails to address cases involving genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or ceasefire between parties, in fulfilment of its primary responsibility in this regard;

61.6 The Ministers *emphasized* that in such instances where the Security Council has not fulfilled its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the General Assembly should take appropriate measures in accordance with the Charter to address the issue. To this extent, the Ministers recalled the decision taken at the 14th NAM Summit authorizing representatives of the Movement Member States to the UN in New York to work on an appropriate draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly on this issue;

61.7 *Promote* and *preserve* the role and mandate of the General Assembly in setting the priorities of the UN and in considering all budgetary and administrative issues and reform, including its absolute authority to allocate and reallocate financial and human resources, and in the appointment of senior officials in the Secretariat in accordance with the Charter and General Assembly resolutions thereof, through *ensuring*, inter alia, the full adherence by UN Member States to such resolutions;

61.8 *Identify* measures to simplify the Uniting for Peace procedure to enable swifter and urgent action by the General Assembly, in recognition of its role on issues relating to international peace and security as set out in the Charter;

61.9 *Strengthen* the role of the General Assembly in accordance with article 97 of the UN Charter in the selection of the Secretary General of the Organisation; and

61.10 The Ministers *commended* the ongoing work of the NAM Working Group on the revitalization of the General Assembly under the chairmanship of Algeria, in coordinating issues of common concern to the Movement. They encouraged all NAM delegations to continue to actively participate in the working group with a view to promote and achieve the objectives of the Movement.

D. Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

62. The Ministers *underlined* the central role of the General Assembly in the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General of the UN, and *expressed support* to efforts aimed at reinforcing and strengthening the role of the Assembly in this regard, and *agreed that* all Non-Aligned Countries shall engage actively in these efforts.

63. Recalling the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the UN Charter, the Ministers called upon the President of the General Assembly to consult with Member States to identify potential candidates endorsed by a Member State and, upon informing all Member States of the results, forward these results to the Security Council.

64. In this context, the Ministers *agreed* that formal presentation of candidatures for the position of Secretary-General should be done in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with Member States in the General Assembly and the Security Council, and *requested* that, during the selection process of the SG, the PGA convenes a meeting of the General Assembly for an exchange of views and dialogue with all candidates.

E. Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council, and other Matters Related to the Security Council

65. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Security Council, in particular the directives of the Movement adopted during its 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Summits, and which have been reflected in the Movement's position and negotiating papers, and the decisions of the Ministerial Conferences and Meetings, as follows:

65.1 The Movement *remained concerned* at the lack of progress in the discussions in the General Assembly on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Council, where the discussions therein have shown that while a convergence of views has emerged on a number of issues, major differences still exist on many others, while there have been some improvements made to the working methods of the Council, they have not satisfied even the minimum expectations of the general membership of the UN, leaving much room for improvement;

65.2 In this context, the Movement welcomed the adoption of Decision 62/557 on the "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters" during the 62nd session of the General Assembly and the commencement of inter-governmental negotiations on this issue in informal plenary of the UN General Assembly;

65.3 Reform of the Security Council should be comprehensive, addressing all substantive issues relating, inter alia, to the question of the membership, regional representation, the Council's agenda, its working methods and decision-making process, including the veto;

65.4 In recent years, the Security Council has been too quick to threaten or authorise enforcement action in some cases while being silent and inactive in others. Furthermore, the Council has been increasingly resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not necessarily pose an immediate threat to international peace and

security. A careful review of these trends indicates that the Council could have opted for alternative provisions to respond more appropriately to particular cases. Instead of excessive and quick use of Chapter VII, efforts should be made to fully utilize the provisions of Chapters VI and VIII for the pacific settlement of disputes. Chapter VII should be invoked, as intended, as a measure of last resort. Unfortunately, provisions of Articles 41 and 42 in some cases have been too quickly resorted to while the other options had not been fully exhausted;

65.5 The Security Council-imposed sanctions remain an issue of serious concern to Non-Aligned Countries. In accordance with the UN Charter, sanctions should be considered to be imposed only after all means of peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter have been exhausted and a thorough consideration undertaken of the short-term and long-term effects of such sanctions. Sanctions are a blunt instrument, the use of which raises fundamental ethical questions of whether sufferings inflicted on vulnerable groups in the target country are legitimate means of exerting pressure. The objectives of sanctions are not to punish or otherwise exact retribution on the populace. In this regard, the objectives of sanctions regimes should be clearly defined, and that its imposition should be for a specified timeframe and be based on tenable legal grounds, and that it should be lifted as soon as the objectives are achieved. The conditions demanded of the State or party on which sanctions are imposed should be clearly defined and subject to periodic review. Sanctions should be imposed only when there exists a threat to international peace and security or an act of aggression, in accordance with the Charter, and that it is not applicable "preventively" in instances of mere violation of international law, norms or standards. Targeted sanctions may be a better alternative so long as the population of targeted State concerned is not victimised whether directly or indirectly;

65.6 Transparency, openness and consistency are key elements that the Security Council should observe in all its activities, approaches and procedures. Regrettably, the Council has neglected these important factors on numerous occasions. Such instances include unscheduled open debates with selective notification, reluctance in convening open debates on some issues of high significance, repeatedly restricting participation in some of the open debates and discriminating between members and non-members of the Council particularly with regard to sequencing and time limits of statements during the open debates, failure to submit special reports to the General Assembly as required under Article 24 of the Charter, submission of annual reports still lacking sufficient information and analytical content, and lack of minimal parameters for the elaboration of the monthly assessment by the Security Council Presidencies. The Council must comply with the provisions of Article 31 of the Charter, which allow any non-Council member to participate in discussions on matters affecting it. Rule 48 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Council should be thoroughly observed. Closed meetings and informal consultations should be kept to a minimum and as the exception they were meant to be;

65.7 The reform of the Security Council should be addressed in a comprehensive, transparent and balanced manner. It should ensure that the agenda of the Council reflects the needs and interests of both developing and developed countries, in an objective, rational, non-selective and non-arbitrary manner. It should aim at limiting and curtailing the use of the veto with a view to its elimination;

65.8 The enlargement of the Council, as a body primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, and the reform of its working methods should lead to a democratic, more representative, more accountable and more effective Council;

65.9 The Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, which have remained provisional for more than 60 years, should be formalised in order to improve its transparency and accountability;

65.10 The Ministers acknowledge the historical injustices against Africa with regard to its representation in the Security Council and expressed support for increased and enhanced representation for Africa in the reformed Security Council. The Ministers took note of the African common position as reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;

65.11 The Ministers directed the Permanent Representatives in New York to continue to develop the elements of the position of the Movement on Security Council reform, taking into account all the options and views of Member States and groups, and to present a comprehensive report to the next meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, with a view to its consideration by the XV Summit of the Movement.

66. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

66.1 *Call on* the Council to increase the number of public meetings, in accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter, and that these meetings should provide real opportunities to take into account the views and contributions of the wider membership of the UN, particularly non-Council members whose affairs are under the discussion of the Council;

66.2 *Call on* the Security Council to allow briefings by the Special Envoys or Representatives of the Secretary-General and the UN Secretariat to take place in public meetings, unless in exceptional circumstances;

66.3 *Call on* the Security Council to further enhance its relationship with the UN Secretariat and troop contributing countries (TCC), including through a sustained, regular and timely interaction. Meetings with TCCs should be held not only in the drawing up of mandates, but also in their implementation, when considering a change in, or renewal of, or completion of a mission mandate, or when there is a rapid deterioration of the situation on the ground. In this context, the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations should involve TCCs more frequently and intensively in its deliberations, especially in the very early stages of mission planning;

66.4 *Call upon* the Security Council to uphold the primacy of and respect for the Charter in connection with its functions and powers and *stresses* once again that the decision by the Security Council to initiate formal or informal discussions on the situation in any Member State of the United Nations or any issue that does not constitute a threat to international peace and security is contrary to Article 24 of the Charter;

66.5 *Call on* the Council to establish its subsidiary organs in accordance with the letter and spirit of the UN Charter, and that these organs should function in a manner that would provide adequate and timely information on their activities to the general UN membership;

66.6 *Reject* any attempts to use the Security Council to pursue national political agendas and *stressed* the necessity of non-selectivity and impartiality in the work of the Council, and the need for the Council to strictly keep within the powers and functions accorded to it by the Member States under the UN Charter;

66.7 *Call on* the Council to avoid resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not necessarily pose a threat to international peace and security, and to fully utilise the provisions of other relevant Chapters, where appropriate, including Chapters VI and VIII, before invoking Chapter VII which should be a measure of last resort, if necessary;

66.8 *Oppose* attempts through the imposition or prolongation of sanctions or their extension by the Security Council against any State under the pretext or with the aim of achieving the

political objectives of one or a few States, rather than in the general interest of the international community; and

66.9 *Urge* the Non-Aligned Countries, which are members of the Security Council,[17] to promote and defend, as deemed possible, the aforementioned positions and objectives during their tenure of membership in the Council, and to this end to, while *noting* with satisfaction recent positive steps in that regard, *stress* the need for the consolidation of the NAM Caucus in the Council with the principal objective of coordinating and defending the positions of the Movement in the Security Council, and *call upon* the members of the Caucus to provide timely briefings and to engage in close consultation with the Non-Aligned Countries, particularly those whose interests and concerns are under consideration by the Council, as well as to keep the Movement continuously updated of all relevant developments and issues with which the Council is actively seized.

F. Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

67. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 61/16, which strengthens the role of the ECOSOC as a principal body for the promotion of international economic cooperation, coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and formulation of recommendations on issues of economic and social development as well as for the full implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Development Goals, and *expressed* their resolve and commitment to promote greater efforts geared toward this end. They particularly *welcomed* ECOSOC's role in undertaking regular and periodic review and assessment of international economic and development policies and their impact on development, and called for full implementation of this role.

G. The Human Rights Council

68. The Ministers *stressed* that the Human Rights Council should provide equal treatment to both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the right to development They further *stressed* that the Council should not allow confrontational approaches, exploitation of human rights for political purposes, selective targeting of individual countries for extraneous considerations and double standards in the conduct of its work, which should comply with the UN Charter, international law and relevant UN resolutions.

69. The Ministers *emphasized* that universality, transparency, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity should be guiding principles for the work of the Council and its method of work. The Council in performing its responsibilities should, bear in mind, in accordance with Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds of the Member States.

70. The Ministers *emphasized* the importance of implementing a constructive approach in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard, they

17 Members of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council, comprising the Non-Aligned Countries currently members of the Security Council, are Burkina Faso (2008-2009), Libya (2008-2009), Uganda (2009-2010) and Vietnam (2008-2009).

urged the Human Rights Council[18] to focus on constructive international dialogue and cooperation, capacity building and technical assistance to ensure the realisation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development.

71. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to General Assembly Resolution 62/219 on 22 December 2007, endorsing the Human Rights Council's decision to adopt resolution 5/1 entitled Institutional Building of the Human Rights Council and resolution 5/2 entitled Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-Holders of the Human Rights Council, including their annexes and appendices.

72. The Ministers *expressed* satisfaction over the active role carried out by the Movement during the Human Rights Council's Institutional Building process, through, inter alia, the presentation of several initiatives and contributions as NAM which allowed the Movement's positions to be reflected in the adopted resolutions. In this regard, the Ministers *called upon* NAM Members to join efforts and to actively engage with the view to presenting and defending the position of the Movement in the forthcoming review process of the Human Rights Council in the General Assembly by 2011.

73. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to develop effective working relationship between the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in line with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 48/141. They further *stressed* that the Human Rights Council, being the expert inter-governmental body on human rights issues, should have an oversight role in reviewing the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including its activities under country engagement and establishing its field offices and decided to discuss this issue further with a view to the forthcoming review process of the Human Rights Council by 2011.

74. The Ministers *reiterated* that the Non-Aligned Movement should continue to closely coordinate its position on the following priority areas:

a) Foster international cooperation and constructive dialogue in the Human Rights Council and prevent the occurrence of practices of double standards, selectivity and political manipulation which discredited the Commission on Human Rights,

b) Continue working towards the enhancement and improvement, as appropriate, of the work of human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies, special procedures, expert bodies and the confidential procedure, bearing in mind that in discharging their mandates, the mandate holders should be guided by and observe, the Code of Conduct for the Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Human Rights Council contained in HRC Resolution 5/2 of 18 June 2007, as well as the need to preserve all these mechanisms and bodies from politicization and double standards, so as to enhance the effectiveness of the system,

c) *Encourage* the presentation of experts from NAM countries as candidates for special procedures mandate-holders,

d) Develop the relationship of the Human Rights Council with other entities of the United Nations system, as appropriate, in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions 48/141, 60/251 and 62/219,

e) Determine the Council's reporting procedures to the United Nations General Assembly, for purposes of universal endorsement of all its programs and activities, in its capacity as

18 The 27 Non-Aligned Countries which are currently members of the 47-member of the Human Rights Council are Angola (2007-2010), Bahrain (2008-20011), Bangladesh (2006-2009), Bolivia (2007-2010), Burkina Faso(2008-2011), Cameroon (2006-2009), Chile (2008-2011), Cuba (2006-2009), Djibouti (2006-2009), Egypt (2007-2010), Gabon (2008-2011), Ghana (2008-2011), India (2007-2010), Indonesia (2007-2010), Jordan (2006-2009), Madagascar (2007-2010), Malaysia (2006-2009), Mauritius (2006-2009), Nicaragua (2007-2010), Nigeria (2006-2009), Pakistan (2008-2011), the Philippines (2007-2010), Qatar (2007-2010), Saudi Arabia (2006-2009), Senegal (2006-2009), South Africa (2007-2010), and Zambia (2008-2011).

subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. In this regard, initiate discussions among NAM Members to explore common grounds on the issue,

f) Start in due course discussions within NAM to be prepared and to agree on possible common positions for the forthcoming review process of the HRC,

g) *Ensure* that the Universal Periodic Review be conducted by the Human Rights Council as a result-oriented, cooperative mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue, with the full involvement of the country under review and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs and that such a mechanism shall complement and not duplicate the work of treaty bodies, bearing in mind the need to eradicate selectivity, double standards and politicisation in the consideration of human rights issues. It should aim at strengthening the Member States capacity, upon their request, to implement their obligations, on promotion and protection of human rights. It should not be used as a tool to coerce States and subject them to politically motivated country-specific resolutions,

h) *Ensure also* that the Universal Periodic Review be conducted in an objective manner, on the basis of credible and reliable information, and taking duly into consideration information, comments and observations of the country under review. It should not be used as a tool to interfere in the internal affairs of States or to question their political, economic, and social systems, their sovereign rights, and their national, religious and cultural particularities. It must continue to be implemented in accordance with UNGA resolution 60/251, HRC resolution 5/1 and 5/2,

i) Support NGOs participation in the work of the Human Rights Council, based inter alia on ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 and the modalities established by the Human Rights Council, taking into consideration that NGOs should conform at all times to the principles governing the establishment and nature of their consultative relations with ECOSOC, and that they are responsible for the actions of their accredited representatives during their participation in the work of the Human Rights Council.

75. The Ministers *emphasized* the role of the Human Rights Council as the United Nations organ responsible for consideration of human rights situations in all countries in the context of the Universal Periodic Review based on cooperation and constructive dialogue. The Ministers *expressed* their deep concern over the continuation of the practice of selective adoption of country-specific resolutions in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, which breaches the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in addressing human rights issues which undermine cooperation as the essential principle to effectively promote and protect all universally *recognized* human rights for all.

76. The Ministers reiterated the importance of ensuring the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council as an action-oriented, cooperative mechanism based on objective and reliable information and interactive dialogue with full involvement of the countries under review and conducted in an impartial, transparent, non-selective, constructive, non-confrontational and non-politicized manner. They further urged all NAM members to continue to coordinate their efforts to support NAM Members States under review.

H. Post-Conflict Peacebuilding Activities and the Operationalisation of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

77. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) recalled the 14th Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Havana, Cuba September 2006

at which the Heads of State or Government of the Movement *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning post-conflict peacebuilding activities and had *welcomed* the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) as by General Assembly resolution 60/180; as a coordinated, coherent and integrated institutional mechanism, to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict, towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction at their request in accordance with the principle of national ownership", in laying the foundation for sustainable development.

78. In pursuit of this mandate, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the Non-Aligned Movement's commitment to an efficient and effective Peacebuilding Commission, which fully utilises the advantages and benefits arising from the diversity of its composition. In this context, they noted the second report of the Commission as contained in document A/63/92-S/2008/417. They also acknowledged the work undertaken by the Commission since it started its operations with respect to the four countries on its agenda, namely: Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic. They also acknowledged the progress achieved so far, in the elaboration of the strategic frameworks for peacebuilding, for these countries.

79. The Ministers *welcomed* the establishment of a NAM Caucus within the Peacebuilding Commission aimed at coordinating positions of Non-Aligned countries in the Commission and to keep the Movement informed of the activities carried out by the Commission. In this connection, they lauded the efforts of the Caucus in the rapid progress of the Commission, specifically towards the entrenchment of the principle of national ownership, the need for capacity building and drawing recognition to, and signalling the importance of the economic recovery and development dimension in the peace building process.

80. The Ministers *expressed* concern at several instances in which the Security Council denied the coordinator of the NAM Caucus in the PBC an opportunity to address members of the Security Council on matters related to the competence of the PBC. They *urged* the Security Council, the General Assembly and ECOSOC to utilize the expertise of the PBC, including the coordinator of the NAM Caucus of the PBC, as the representative of the largest grouping within the PBC, by ensuring participation in discussions on all issues of relevance to, or falling within, the competence of the PBC. Furthermore, they *stressed* on the necessity to promote the institutional relation between the PBC and the General Assembly, the Security Council and the ECOSOC.

81. The Ministers *reiterated* that, without prejudice to the functions and powers of the other principal organs of the UN in relation to post-conflict peacebuilding activities, the General Assembly must play the key role in the formulation and implementation of such activities and functions. They underlined the central role of the PBC in providing the United Nations with policy guidance and strategies in its post-conflict peacebuilding activities. In this regard they *reaffirmed* the work of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission as the central organ of the Commission, with responsibilities as described in the General Assembly's resolution 60/180. As well as considering the organizational committee a suitable platform for strategy and policy discussions to promote the rules and working methods of the Commission and to reinforce the coherence of the Commission's Configurations and to facilitate a result oriented engagement with relevant actors and stakeholders. In this connection also, they *urged* the NAM Caucus in the Commission to encourage work towards the further development of rules of procedure and methods of work, suitable for the efficient and proper functioning of the Commission. They *emphasized* that the provisional rules of procedure of the PBC need to be regularly revisited in the light of the experience gained by the Commission since its operationalization, and the developments in the work of the Commission. They emphasized as well the importance for NAM Member States to actively participate in the review process of the arrangements set out in General Assembly resolution A/Res/180 which is scheduled to take place in 2010, to ensure that they are appropriate to fulfill the agreed functions of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Ministers reaffirmed the necessity to provide necessary and timely

resources, in order to help ensure predictable financing for recovery activities and sustained financial investment, over the medium to long-term. They reiterated the fundamental role of the PBC in the conception, with the consent of the countries under the consideration of the PBC, and in conformity with the principle of national ownership, of integrated strategies for post conflict peacebuilding and recovery.

82. The Ministers *emphasized* that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) must continue to be used as a catalytic support mechanism geared towards providing critical support during the early stages of the peace building process to avert relapse into conflict. They stressed the need for closer synergy between the PBC and the PBF, through a strengthened strategic relationship, to ensure greater coherence and coordination and the avoidance of duplication. They emphasized that the terms of reference of the PBF should be amended, taking into consideration the lessons learned since its establishment, to make the Fund more efficient, transparent, flexible and to facilitate the disbursement of funds, particularly for quick-win and emergency projects. They reiterated as well the importance of increasing the funding target of the PBF, to make it more capable of financing additional projects in post conflict countries. They stressed on the necessity of having a mechanism to assess whether allocations from the PBF are directed to the appropriate channels leading to peacebuilding. The Ministers emphasized the importance for this review process to contribute to more effective and flexible rules, applicable to the PBF.

83. The Ministers *encouraged* the continued coordination of positions of the Non-Aligned countries within the framework of the NAM Caucus in the PBC and requested the Caucus to continue its efforts to strengthen the position and the role of the Movement in the affairs of the PBC and continue to keep the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement abreast of the activities undertaken by the Commission, on a regular basis. They further *encouraged* the Non-Aligned members of the Peace-building Commission and the Non–Aligned countries which are on its agenda, to actively participate in the NAM Caucus to ensure its purposeful contribution to the peace-building activities of the United Nations.

84. The Ministers commended the continuing work of the NAM caucus in the PBC, under the coordination of Jamaica, and requested the caucus to continue its efforts to strengthen the position and role of the Movement in the affairs of the PBC and to continue to keep the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement abreast of the activities undertaken by the Commission, on a regular basis. They further encouraged the non-aligned members of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Non-Aligned countries which are on its agenda, to actively participate in the NAM Caucus to ensure its purposeful contribution to the Peacebuilding activities of the United Nations.

I. United Nations Secretariat and Management Reform

85. Recognising that the reform of the UN is a collective agenda of its membership, the Ministers *stressed* that the voice of every Member State must be heard and respected during the reform process, irrespective of its level of contribution to the budget of the Organisation.

86. The Ministers *recognized* that in order to advance the reform process of the Secretariat and Management, the United Nations must be equipped with the necessary and sufficient resources to allow its full implementation, avoiding any delay in this task.

87. The Ministers *reiterated* that the objectives of the reform of the Secretariat of the UN and its management are as follows:

(a) to respond more efficiently and effectively to the needs of Member States;

(b) to further strengthen and update the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the UN and thus, improving its performance in order to realize the full potential of the Organisation, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter;

(c) to ensure the effective enforcement of greater accountability and transparency measures within the Secretariat as well as accountability of the Secretariat towards Member States in particular at the senior managers level;

(d) To better reflect the international character of United Nations Secretariat as a fundamental principle through obtaining the agreed benchmarks on equitable geographic representation at all levels of the Secretariat, including senior managerial level, as well as to achieve the targeted gender balance among all staff members;

(e) The final result of the reform process should be to ensure that the UN is able to implement all its mandates more effectively and efficiently.

88. The Ministers *emphasized* that the reform of the Secretariat of the UN and its management should not:

(a) change the intergovernmental nature of the decision-making, oversight and monitoring processes of the Organisation;

(b) be a cost-cutting exercise of the Organisation;

(c) reduce the budget levels of the Organisation;

(d) fund more activities from within the existing pool of resources of the Organisation; and

(e) Redefine the functions and powers of the principal organs of the Organisation.

89. The Ministers *strongly rejected* attempts to impose conditionalities to the reform process which negatively impact the confidence atmosphere needed for the negotiations.

J. United Nations System-wide Coherence

90. The Ministers *reiterated* their willingness to continue to engage constructively in the process set up by the President of the General Assembly to facilitate an intergovernmental consideration of the recommendations emanating from the High-Level Panel's Report and the Secretary-General's comments. In this context, the Ministers *took note* of General Assembly resolution 62/277.

91. The Ministers *reaffirmed* all the general elements stated by the Joint Coordinating Committee of G-77 and NAM during the plenary meetings of the General Assembly on system wide coherence and in its letter of 19 March 2007, including the following:

a) The Ministers *reiterated* their preference of an integrated process instead of a divided one. Funding, development and governance continue to be areas of priority interest for the JCC. The Ministers understand that further intergovernmental work of the General Assembly on system-wide coherence will focus exclusively and in an integrated manner on "Delivery as One" at country and regional levels, harmonization of business practices, funding, governance, and gender equality and the empowerment of women, as decided by resolution 62/277.

b) The Ministers also reiterated their position on the integrity of the follow-up process to the High-level panel's recommendations on system-wide coherence in terms of decision-making with the view of a single decision at the decision point in this process; and in this

regard, they supported the decision of the General Assembly to review and take stock of all of its prior actions and deliberations in a single resolution or decision at the conclusion of its entire process on system-wide coherence.

c) The Ministers *also reiterated* their position that development cooperation should be demand-driven and be pursued on the basis of the national strategies and plans of developing countries. In this regard, they *emphasized* that UN development cooperation should be voluntary and grant-based in nature and that there should be no "one size-fits all" approach. Likewise, they highlighted that the nature of development cooperation should be responsive to the specific needs, priorities and conditions of each country.

d) The Ministers *acknowledged* that General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the Triennial comprehensive policy review operational activities for development of the United Nations system constitutes the intergovernmental agreed guiding policy framework for addressing the UN operational activities for development.

e) The Ministers *underscored* that the fundamental characteristics of the UN operational activities for development must remain, inter alia, the universal, voluntary and grant nature, the neutrality and the multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of program countries in a flexible manner.

92. The Ministers commended the effective coordination between NAM and G-77, through the Joint Coordinating Committee, in the consultations on the System-wide Coherence, and in this regard *undertook* to continue to work together with the G-77, through the JCC, with a view to defend, preserve and promote the interests of developing countries and defend the integrated, intergovernmental, inclusive and transparent nature of this process, without the imposition of artificial deadlines for decision-making.

United Nations: Financial Situation and Arrangement

93. The Ministers *reiterated* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the financial situation and arrangement of the UN, as contained in the Final Document of the 14th NAM Summit as follows:

93.1 The Movement *remained concerned* at the financial situation of the UN as a result of the failure on the part of some Member States, especially major contributing States, to meet their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

93.2 The Movement *reiterated* that it remains crucial to ensure that all decisions on the priority-setting of the UN are adopted in an inclusive and transparent manner, and that the Organisation should be provided with the resources needed for the full and effective implementation of all mandated programmes and activities as well as those required to guarantee the quality of services needed for the functioning of its inter-governmental machinery;

93.3 The principle of capacity to pay of Member States should remain as the fundamental criterion in the apportionment of the expenses of the Organisation;

93.4 The general principles governing the financing of UN peacekeeping operations, as set out in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, should be adhered to. A proper balance should be struck between the level and urgency with which peacekeeping

activities are funded on the one hand, and availability of resources needed for full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities by the General Assembly, in particular in the area of development, on the other; and

93.5 To strike a balance in reflecting the agreed priorities of the Organization in the allocation of resources to the United Nations regular budget; which is persistently to the detriment of the development activities;

93.6 The existing reporting procedures on budget and financial cycle should be maintained and the role of the Member States in programme evaluation of the Organisation should be strengthened. In this regard, the functions of the Committee on Program and Coordination (CPC), as the main subsidiary of ECOSOC and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination and its vital role in program design by ensuring that the Secretariat accurately interprets and translates legislative mandates into programs and sub-programs should be further strengthened.

94. The Ministers *reaffirm* that the financial stability of the UN should not be jeopardized by any arbitrary measure. They also *stressed* that measures to ensure financial discipline should be done in full compliance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular 41/213 and 42/211, as well as relevant rules and regulations of the Organization.

95. The Ministers *stressed* that the level of resources to be approved by the General Assembly must be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities in order to ensure their full and effective implementation. They also reaffirmed the priorities of the Organization as approved by the General Assembly and the need for the Secretary-General to reflect these priorities when presenting proposed programme budgets.

96. The Ministers stressed that the ceiling is the main distortionary element of the scale of assessments, affecting the principle of capacity to pay and *noted* with concern that despite the arrangement to reduce the ceiling from 25% to 22% in 2000 as a compromise, the major contributor is far from honoring its commitment to pay all its arrears. In this context, the Ministers urged the General Assembly to undertake a review of this arrangement, in accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 55/5 C.

97. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to *reiterate* the following measure, among others:

97.1 *Urge* all UN Member States in arrears, in particular the major contributing States, to settle their outstanding dues without further delay and to pay their future assessments in full, on time and without imposing preconditions in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions, *mindful* at the same time of the special situation faced by some developing countries that hamper their ability to pay their assessed contributions.

United Nations: Peacekeeping Operations

98. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs) adopted at the 11th Ministerial Conference of NAM held in Cairo in 1994, and *reiterated* the Movement's position on UNPKOs adopted by the 12th Summit held in Durban in 1998, and which have been further *reiterated* at the 13th Summit held in Kuala Lumpur in 2003, the 14th Ministerial Conference held in Durban in 2004, the 14th Summit held in Havana in September 2006, and the 15th Ministerial Conference in Tehran.

99. The Ministers commended the Movement's significant and major contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security under the auspices of the United Nations. *Noting* that peacekeeping has become the flagship activity of the Organisation, the Ministers *expressed* satisfaction that the Non-Aligned Countries currently provide more than 80% of peacekeeping personnel in the field. They *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning UNPKOs, as follows:

99.1 The Ministers *reiterated* that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the UN and that the role of regional arrangements, in that regard, should be in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, and should not in any way substitute the role of the UN, or circumvent the full application of the guiding principles of UNPKOs;

99.2 The Ministers *emphasized* that the establishment of any peacekeeping operation or extension of mandate of existing operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and those principles that have evolved to govern such operations and have become basic principles thereof, namely the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality. The Ministers *believed* that these basic principles have guided UN peacekeeping operations over the last five decades without controversy, still remain relevant and should be preserved. The Ministers *also emphasized* that the respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within their domestic jurisdiction should also be upheld in this regard;

99.3 The Ministers *continued* to *emphasize* that UN peacekeeping operation should be provided from the outset with political support, full and optimal human, financial and logistical resources, and clearly defined and achievable mandates and exit strategies;

99.4 The Ministers called upon the Security Council, while mandating UNPKOs, to authorise optimal troop strengths in order to achieve the mandated tasks;

99.5 The Ministers *stressed* that UNPKOs should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict, which should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, with other political, social, economic and developmental instruments. They further stressed that, due consideration should be given by the UN to the manner in which those efforts can be carried out from the early stage of UN engagement in post conflict situations and continue without interruption after the departure of UNPKOs, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security;

99.6 The Ministers, while recognising the ongoing surge in peacekeeping which requires a genuine and concerted response by the entire membership of the UN, in particular the developed countries, *called upon* these countries to participate in and share the burden of UNPKOs;

99.7 The Ministers *emphasized* that in the context of the comprehensive approach and the objective of a lasting peace and security, UN peacekeeping operations should be accompanied by a parallel and inclusive peace process that is well planned and carefully designed, supported by the consent and adherence of the parties concerned;

99.8 The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the General Assembly has the primary role within the UN in formulating concepts, policies and budgetary matters related to peacekeeping. In this regard, the Ministers *emphasized* that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations is the only UN forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of UNPKOs in all their aspects. Further, the Ministers *agreed* to continue to promote and safeguard the collective positions and priorities of the Movement on peacekeeping;

99.9 The Ministers *stressed* that the UN's engagement in increasingly demanding and complex multidimensional peacekeeping operations should be consistent with the agreed principles, guidelines and terminology governing peacekeeping. They *emphasized* the importance of consistency in the use of agreed peacekeeping terminology and underlined that any discussion of the above should be done through the inter-governmental process;

99.10 The Ministers, while taking *note* of the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping (DPKO) and establishment of the Department of Field Support (DFS), *emphasized* the importance of preserving unity of command in mission at all levels, as well as coherence in policy and strategy, and clear command structures in the field and up to, and including, at headquarters;

99.11 The Ministers *called upon* the UN Secretariat and concerned parties to accord the highest priority to the safety and security of UN peacekeepers in the field in light of the worsening security situation prevailing in many field missions. In this context, they *condemned in the strongest terms* the killing and targeted attacks of UN peacekeepers, and all acts of violence against them;

99.12 The Ministers *stressed* that Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) should be involved early and fully, in all aspects and stages of UNPKOs and called for more frequent and substantive interaction among the Security Council, the UN Secretariat and the TCCs. They called for the full and effective implementation of the existing mechanisms laid down in Security Council Resolution 1353 (2001) and in the Note of the President of the Security Council dated 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56);

99.13 The Ministers *expressed the view* that further development of the mechanisms, referred to in paragraph 97.12 above, towards achieving peacekeeping objectives should be considered;

99.14 The Ministers *underscored* in particular that the experience and expertise of troop contributing countries can be drawn upon when the Security Council implements, extends or adjusts UN peacekeeping mandates. Troop contributing countries are best placed to contribute to an objective assessment of the situation on the ground. In this regard, enhanced and better interaction between Troop Contributing Countries and the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations could also contribute to a more inclusive and substantial consultation and decision making process;

99.15 The Ministers *emphasized* that any invitation by the UN Secretariat to the meetings on establishing a new UN peacekeeping mission or expanding an ongoing UNPKO should be transparent and encompass all current and potential Troop Contributing Countries;

99.16 The Ministers expressed support for continuing efforts to strengthen African peacekeeping capabilities and emphasized the importance of implementing the 10 years plan for capacity building and the Joint Action Plan for United Nations Support to the African Union Peacekeeping in the short, medium and long terms in all relevant the areas including the development of an African standby force. They further took note of the Report prepared by the AU-UN Panel on modalities for support to AU peacekeeping operations and recommend the enhancement of an effective partnership between the UN and the African Union in order to improve planning, deployment and management of African peacekeeping operations;

99.17 The Ministers remained concerned over the staffing and structure of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support whereby NAM Member Countries are insufficiently represented, particularly at senior and professional levels. The Ministers urged the Secretary-General to further enhance his efforts in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter, the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules and relevant General Assembly resolutions to attain equitable geographical distributions and gender representation at all

levels. In this regard, the Ministers believed that appropriate representation in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and in the field should also take into account the contributions of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), in particular at the professional and leadership level in Headquarters as well in the field missions;

99.18 The Ministers underscored the importance of the rapid and effective deployment of the UNPKOs including their reinforcement as necessary. In this regard, The Ministers stressed upon the need for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities for any new UN peacekeeping missions or for reinforcing existing UN peacekeeping missions if in crisis. Such a mechanism needs to be developed in close consultation with Troop Contributing Countries;

99.19 The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the funding of UNPKOs through voluntary contributions should not influence the UN Security Council decisions to establish UNPKOs or affect their mandates;

99.20 The Ministers *expressed* concern over the significant amounts of outstanding reimbursements that the United Nations currently owes to the Troop Contributing Countries, which may adversely affect the UN peacekeeping capacity;

99.21 The Ministers *noted* the positive outcome of the 2008 session of the UN Contingent Owned Equipment Working Group although they believe that there is a need for the increase in reimbursement rates of COE to be based on actual expenses and investments. They *stressed* the need to review Troop Cost which has not been revised since 2002;

99.22 The Ministers *stressed again* that all UN Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without condition. They *reaffirmed* the obligation of Member States, under article 17 of the UN Charter, to bear their expenses to the Organisation as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibility of the Permanent Members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963;

99.23 The Ministers *reemphasized* the critical importance of timely, efficient, transparent and cost-effective procurement of goods and services in support of UNPKOs, and *reiterated* the view that there is a need to ensure greater UN procurement from Non-Aligned Countries;

99.24 The Ministers *acknowledged* the outstanding contribution and sacrifices of peacekeepers, and *stressed* that all UN peacekeeping personnel perform their duties in a manner that preserve the image, credibility, impartiality, and integrity of the UN. They *stressed* the importance of maintaining a policy of zero tolerance on all forms of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping missions;

99.25 The Ministers *emphasized* that due process and national requirements must always be observed during investigations of misconduct. They further *stressed* that the UN should ensure that steps are taken to restore the image and credibility of any UN peacekeeping mission, Troop Contributing Countries or UN peacekeeping personnel when allegations of misconduct are ultimately found to be unproven;

99.26 The Ministers *noted* the importance of security sector reform (SSR) among other important components in the context of UN peacekeeping and post conflict situations, and *stressed* that SSR should be integrated in the broad framework of UN Rule of Law activities, thus ensuring that SSR activities and structures are not duplicating the work carried out in the Rule of Law area. They *reaffirmed* that the development of a UN approach to SSR must take place within the General Assembly, and *stressed* that the formulation of strategies to SSR, including its scope and mandate, should be carried out through the intergovernmental process; and

99.27 The Ministers *emphasized* that SSR should be undertaken at the request of the country concerned, and underlined the primary responsibility and the sovereign right of the country concerned in determining its national priorities in this regard.

100. The Ministers *commended* the ongoing work of the NAM Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, under the chairmanship of Morocco, in coordinating issues of common concern to the Movement in the field of peacekeeping. They *encouraged* all NAM delegations to continue to actively participate in the working group with a view to promote and achieve the objectives of the Movement, in particular the Troop Contributing Countries, in the work of the Special committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

101. The Ministers, deeply aware of the risks inherent in peacekeeping, reserved their most profound thoughts and respect for those UN peacekeepers that have lost their lives while in the service of peace. They emphasized that their sacrifice should stand as an enduring testimony of the unique work carried out by them in favor of peace and stability.

Disarmament and International Security

102. The Ministers *reaffirmed* and *reiterated* the long-standing principled positions of the Movement on disarmament and international security, including the decisions taken at the XII Summit in Durban in 1998, the XIII Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 2003, the XIV Summit in Havana in 2006, the XIII Ministerial Conference in Cartagena in 2000, the XIV Ministerial Conference in Durban in 2004, the Ministerial Meeting held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in 2006, and the XV Ministerial Conference held in Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran, in 2008.

103. The Ministers *reiterated* their continued grave concern over the current difficult and complex situation in the field of disarmament and international security. In this regard, they called for renewed efforts to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.

104. While *reaffirming* the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, the Ministers *reiterated* their determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and in this regard, they *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 63/50 on Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

105. The Ministers *reiterated* their strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and in this context, underlined that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues.

106. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Movement's principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects and *stressed* the importance that efforts aiming at nuclear non-proliferation should be parallel to simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament. They *stressed* their concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. They *reiterated* deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the Nuclear Weapons-States (NWS) to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. They *underscored* the need for the NWS to implement the unequivocal undertaking that they provided in 2000 so as to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons and *emphasized*, in this regard, the urgent need to commence negotiations on nuclear disarmament without delay.

107. The Ministers, while noting the recent statements by NWS of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, reaffirmed the need for urgent concrete actions by the NWS to achieve this goal.

108. The Ministers *remained* deeply concerned at strategic defence doctrines of NWS, including the "NATO Alliance Strategic Concept", which not only set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but also maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies.

109. The Ministers *reiterated* that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as envisaged in the United States Nuclear Posture Review contravene the security assurances provided by the NWS. They further *reaffirmed* that these improvements as well as the development of new types of such weapons violate the commitments undertaken by the NWS at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

110. The Ministers *emphasized* that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. They *reaffirmed* that efforts toward nuclear disarmament, global and regional approaches and confidence building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security.

111. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance and the relevance of the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) as the sole specialised, deliberative body within the UN multilateral disarmament machinery. They continued to *fully support* the work of the UNDC and *expressed* regret that UNDC was unable to reach agreement on recommendations on its two agenda items during substantive sessions of its three-year cycle ending in April 2008 due to the lack of political will and inflexible positions of certain Nuclear Weapons States, despite NAM's constructive role and concrete proposals throughout the deliberations, especially in the Working Group on "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". The Ministers, while recalling the proposals submitted by the Movement regarding the agenda, called upon UN Member States to display the necessary political will and flexibility in order to achieve agreement on its agenda.

112. The *Ministers* reaffirmed the importance of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and reiterated their call on the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive program of work by, inter alia, establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament as soon as possible and as the highest priority. They emphasized the necessity to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. They reaffirmed the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the ICJ that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

113. The Ministers welcomed the efforts made by the NAM Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament of the 2009 session, as well as the Members States of the Conference, to overcome the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament. The Ministers encouraged the Member States of the Conference on Disarmament to consider positively the proposal made by Algeria on 26 March 2009, in its capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament, within the efforts to agree on a balance and comprehensive Program of Work for the Conference on Disarmament. In this regard, they agreed to continue coordination of efforts at the NAM chapter in Geneva.

114. The Ministers *reiterated* their support for the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV) and further *reiterated* their deep concern over the persistent lack of consensus to date, despite efforts made in 2007. Appreciating the role of the

Chair of the open-ended working group in 2007, selected from NAM, the Ministers recalled the concrete proposals and the consistent and constructive efforts of the Movement to reach agreement among all UN Member States. They regretted the lack of political will of a certain State in obstructing consensus at the time. The Ministers *also stressed* the importance of the General Assembly to continue its active consideration with a view to reaching consensus on the objectives, agenda, and the establishment of a preparatory committee for the SSOD-IV, including by reconvening the open-ended working group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee for SSOD-IV. NAM would request, at an appropriate time, the convening of the open-ended working group.

115. The Ministers again called for an international conference to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear dangers, at the earliest possible date, with the objective of arriving at an agreement on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time to eliminate all nuclear weapons, to prohibit their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction.

116. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and *reaffirmed* further that non-NWS should be effectively assured by NWS against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they reaffirmed the need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-NWS as a matter of priority. They *noted* the establishment in 1998 of an Ad Hoc Committee on effective international arrangements to assure Non-nuclear-weapons States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate universal, unconditional and legally binding security assurances to all non-NWS.

117. The Ministers *stressed* the significance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT, including by all NWS, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. They *reiterated* that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the NWS, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.

118. The Ministers, while *noting* the entry into force of the 2002 Moscow Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States, *stressed* that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons, and *called on* the United States and the Russian Federation to apply the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to further reduce their nuclear arsenals, both warheads and delivery systems, under the Treaty. While taking note of the positive signals by the United States and the Russian Federation on starting negotiations on the replacement of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), which is due to expire by the end of 2009, the Ministers called upon them to commence and urgently conclude such negotiations in order to achieve further deep cuts in their strategic and tactical nuclear weapons. The Ministers further stressed that such cuts should be irreversible, verifiable and transparent.

119. The Ministers continued to be concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defence systems and the threat of weaponization of outer space which have, inter alia, contributed to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to the promotion of disarmament and the strengthening of international security. The abrogation of the ABM Treaty brings new challenges to strategic stability and the prevention of the arms race in outer space. They *remained* concerned that the implementation of a national missile defence system could trigger an arms race(s) and the further development of advanced missile systems and an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.

120. The Ministers *recognized* the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and *emphasized* that prevention of an arms race in outer space, including a ban to deploy or use weapons therein, would avert a grave danger for international peace and security. They further *emphasized* the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space. They also *reemphasized* the urgent need for the commencement of substantive work in the CD on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, taking note of the joint Russian-Chinese initiative of a draft treaty on the "Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects" (PPWT) presented in the Conference on Disarmament on 12 February 2008. They noted that this initiative is a constructive contribution to the work of the Conference, and is a good basis for further discussion toward adopting an international binding instrument.

121. The Ministers *remained convinced* of the need for a multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive, transparent, and non-discriminatory approach toward the issue of missiles in all its aspects as a contribution to international peace and security. They *expressed* their support for efforts to be continued within the UN to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects. In this regard, they *emphasized* the contribution of peaceful uses of space technologies, including space launch vehicle technologies, to human advancement, such as for telecommunications and data gathering on natural disasters. They also *emphasized* the need to keep the issue of missiles in all its aspects on the agenda of the UN General Assembly and *welcomed* that the Panel of Governmental Experts established in accordance with Resolution 59/67 successfully concluded its work in 2008 and submitted its report to the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly. Pending the achievement of such a universal approach related to delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction, any initiative to address these concerns effectively and in a sustainable and comprehensive manner should be through an inclusive process of negotiations in a forum where all States could participate as equals. They *stressed* the importance of the security concerns of all States at regional and global levels in any approach to the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

122. The Ministers believed that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) created by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, the Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free-status are positive steps and important measures towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and they *welcomed* the entry into force of the Treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia on 21 March 2009 as an effective contribution to strengthening regional and global peace and security. They *reiterated* that in the context of NWFZs, it is essential that NWS should provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zone. They *urged* States to conclude agreements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned with a view to establishing new NWFZs in regions where they do not exist, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I) and the principles adopted by the 1999 UN Disarmament Commission. Recalling the convening and the outcome of the First Conference of the States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Established Nuclear Weapon Free Zones held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005, the Ministers *called on* the States parties and signatories to the Treaties of NWFZs to implement further ways and means of co-operation among themselves, their treaty agencies and other interested States. In this regard, they took note of the Focal Points Meeting of NWFZ Treaties and Mongolia, held from 27-28 April 2009 in Ulaanbaatar. They *expressed* their support for Mongolia's policy in institutionalizing its nuclear-weapon-free status. In this regard they welcomed the start of the talks by Mongolia with its two neighbours to conclude the required legal instrument and expressed their hope that it would soon result in the conclusion of an international instrument institutionalizing the status.

123. The Ministers *reiterated* their support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. As a priority step to this end, they *reaffirmed* the need for the speedy establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and paragraph 14 of the Security Council Resolution 687 (1991) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. They called upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the fulfilment of the proposal initiated by Iran in 1974 for the establishment of such a zone and, pending its establishment, they demanded on Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the NPT without delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards according to Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and to conduct its nuclear related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime. They called for the earliest implementation of relevant IAEA resolutions on "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East". They *expressed* great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States, and *condemned* Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. In this context they also *condemned* the statement made by the Prime Minister of Israel on 11 December 2006, related to the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel. They *urged* the continued consideration of the issue of Israeli nuclear capabilities in the context of the IAEA, including at the General Conference at its 53rd Session. They were of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons, which allow one party to threaten its neighbours, and the region. They further *welcomed* the initiative by H.E. Mr. Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and in this context, they took into consideration the draft resolution tabled by the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Arab Group, before the Security Council on 29 December 2003 on the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. They *stressed* that necessary steps should be taken in different international fora for the establishment of this zone. They also called for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel. In this regard, they *expressed* their serious concern over the continuing development whereby Israeli scientists are provided access to the nuclear facilities of one NWS. This development will have potentially serious negative implications on security in the region as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.

124. The Ministers *expressed* their support for the efforts of the Arab Group in Vienna to keep the question of the Israeli Nuclear capabilities under considerations of the General Conference of the IAEA at its 53rd Session.

125. The Ministers *underscored* the Movement's principled position concerning non-use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity of any State. In this regard, they *condemned* the Israeli attack against a Syrian facility on September 6, 2007, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and *welcomed* Syria's cooperation with the IAEA in this regard.

126. The Ministers *emphasized* the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements, and in this regard, they *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 63/51 on this matter for the first time without a vote. They *reaffirmed* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties.

127. The Ministers *emphasized* the importance of the UN activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament.

128. The Ministers of the States Parties to the NPT, while *reaffirming* the package of agreements of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT, *reiterated* their disappointment at the inability of the 2005 Review Conference of the NPT to agree on substantive recommendations. While recognizing the crucial role of the NPT in nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Ministers of the States Parties to the NPT *agreed* to make every effort to reach a successful outcome at the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT and called upon nuclear weapon States, to reiterate their full respect to their obligations under the Treaty, in particular in the area of nuclear disarmament, and the outcomes of its Review Conferences, in particular the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2000 Review Conference and undertake practical measures thereto in order to arrive at a successful outcome of the 2010 Review Conference.

129. The Ministers of the States Parties to the NPT *reiterated* their call for the firm commitment by all States parties to the Treaty to the implementation of all the provisions of the Treaty and called for the full implementation of the 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the Treaty, particularly an unequivocal undertaking by the NWS to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they also recalled that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT *reiterated* that legally binding security assurances by the five NWS to the non-NWS parties to the Treaty strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. They underlined the importance to establish subsidiary bodies to the relevant Main Committees of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT to deliberate on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons; to consider and recommend proposals on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT; and to consider and adopt a legally binding international instrument on unconditional security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states. In this regard, they *emphasized* the need for the Preparatory Committee meetings to continue to allocate specific time for deliberations on nuclear disarmament, implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and security assurances. They recalled the agreement that the Review Conference will be chaired by a representative from the Movement.

130. The Ministers of the States Parties to the NPT called upon the NWS to implement their commitments not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-NWS parties to the Treaty or NWFZs at any time or under any circumstances, pending the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on security assurances.

131. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the inalienable right of developing countries to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. They continued to *note* with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology, for peaceful purposes persist. They again *emphasized* that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States, and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development. The Ministers *expressed* their full confidence in the impartiality and professionalism of the IAEA and *strongly rejected* attempts by any State to politicize the work of the IAEA, including its technical co-operation programme, in violation of the IAEA Statute.

132. The Ministers of the States Parties to the NPT *emphasized* once more that nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in

conformity with Articles I, II, and III of the Treaty. They *stressed* that this right constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. In this connection, they confirmed that each country's choices and decision in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international co-operation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.

133. The Ministers stressed particularly the responsibility of developed countries to promote the legitimate need of nuclear energy of the developing countries, by allowing them to participate to the fullest extent possible in the transfer of nuclear equipment, materials, scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes with a view to achieving the largest benefits and applying pertinent elements of sustainable development in their activities.

134. The Ministers highlighted that the issue of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle should be conducted through wide, integral and transparent consultations and negotiations, focusing on its technical, legal, political and economical implications, before any decision is taken about this complex and sensitive matter. The Ministers emphasized that decisions should be made by consensus, with the participation of all IAEA member States, and any proposal from IAEA must be consistent with its Statute, without any prejudice to the inalienable right of its member States to research, develop and use for peaceful purposes of nuclear sciences, in all its aspects.

135. The Ministers *emphasizing* the importance of the positive role played by the Non-Aligned Members in the IAEA, *stressed* the necessity that all members of the IAEA strictly observe its Statute. They *stressed* that any undue pressure or interference in the Agency's activities, especially its verification process, which could jeopardize the efficiency and credibility of the Agency, should be avoided. They recognised that the IAEA is the sole competent authority for verification of compliance with the obligations under the respective safeguard agreements of the Member States. They also *reaffirmed* that a clear distinction has to be made between the legal obligations of Member States under their respective safeguards agreements and their voluntary undertakings, in order to ensure that such voluntary undertakings are not turned into legal safeguards obligations.

136. The Ministers *stressed* that the discussion of the IAEA's future role until 2020 and beyond is an issue of extraordinary importance for all IAEA member States, in particular for NAM members. Therefore it should be conducted through a transparent and careful deliberation process, with active participation of all IAEA member States. Any decision in this regard should take into account the interests of all IAEA member States in order to achieve consensus.

137. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities and that any attack or threat of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities — operational or under construction — poses a great danger to human beings and the environment, and constitutes a grave violation of international law, principles and purposes of the UN Charter and regulations of the IAEA. They recognised the need for a comprehensive multilaterally negotiated instrument prohibiting attacks or threat of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

138. The Ministers *affirmed* the need to strengthen the Radiological Safety and Protection Systems at facilities utilising radioactive materials as well as at radioactive waste management facilities, including the safe transportation of these materials. They *reaffirmed* the need to strengthen existing international regulations relating to safety and security of transportation of such materials. While *reiterating* the need to take appropriate measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes, they called for effective implementation of the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste of the IAEA as a means of enhancing the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories.

139. The Ministers *stressed* that the issue of proliferation should be resolved through political and diplomatic means, and that measures and initiatives taken in this regard should be within the

framework of international law; relevant conventions; the UN Charter, and should contribute to the promotion of international peace, security and stability.

140. The Ministers of the States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) *reaffirmed* that the possibility of any use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins as weapons should be completely excluded, and the conviction that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of humankind. They recognised the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for a legally binding Protocol and universal adherence to the Convention. They *reiterated* their call to promote international cooperation for peaceful purposes, including scientific-technical exchange. They underlined the importance to maintain close coordination among the NAM States Parties to the Convention and highlighted that the Convention on Biological and Toxin Weapons forms a whole and that, although it is possible to consider certain aspects separately, it is critical to deal with all of the issues interrelated to this Convention in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

141. The Ministers of the States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention stressed the importance of the active participation by NAM States Parties to the BTWC in this year's Experts and Annual Meeting in the framework of the Convention, in August and December 2009, respectively, on enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases, which are items of utmost interest not only to the NAM States Parties to the BTWC but also to all developing countries. They further encouraged the BTWC States Parties to provide information, as set forth in paragraph 54 of the Final Document of the Sixth BTWC Review Conference, on how Article X of the BTWC on the issue of international assistance and cooperation is being implemented.

142. The Ministers of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) *invited* all States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible with a view to its universality. They *reaffirmed* that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced through its full implementation. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention. They *reiterated* their call on the developed countries to promote international cooperation for the benefit of States Parties through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all and any discriminatory restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention. They recalled that the full, balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention in particular economic and technical development through international cooperation, is fundamental to the achievement of its object and purpose. While *expressing* their serious concern that more than 57% of chemical weapons still remain to be destroyed, they called upon States having declared possession of chemical weapons to ensure full and complete compliance with the final extended deadline (29th of April 2012) for the destruction of their chemical weapons, in order to uphold the credibility and integrity of the Convention. They *stressed* that the obligation and responsibility for the destruction of chemical weapons lies solely with the possessor States Parties and that fulfillment of this obligation is fundamental to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention. In this regard, they *called on* the relevant possessor States Parties to intensify the rate of destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles by taking every necessary measure to meet their final extended deadlines for the destruction of their chemical weapons in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

143. The Ministers of the States Parties to the CWC *reaffirmed* that the implementation of the Article X of the CWC on assistance and protection against chemical weapons make a significant contribution to countering the threats of use of chemical weapons. They *stressed* the importance of achieving and maintaining a high level of readiness of the OPCW to provide timely and needed

assistance and protection against use or threat of use of chemical weapons, including assistance to the victims of chemical weapons.

144. The Ministers of the States Parties to the CWC, while paying due respect to the chemical weapons victims and their families, declare their firm conviction that international support to provide special care and assistance to all victims suffering the effects of exposure to chemical weapons is an urgent humanitarian need and that the States Parties to the Convention as well as the OPCW should pay urgent attention to meeting these needs including through the possible establishment of an international support network.

145. The Ministers condemned the recent Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip and the occupying power's indiscriminate shelling and bombing of Palestinian civilian areas, and expressed their grave concern over the reported use in civilian areas of harmful and potentially fatal incendiary weapons, such as white phosphorous. In this regard, they called for a thorough investigation of this serious matter by relevant bodies under the appropriate international conventions and agreements.

146. The Ministers regretted unsubstantiated allegations of non-compliance with relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction and *called on* States Parties to such instruments that make such allegations to follow procedures set out in those instruments and to provide necessary substantiation for their allegations. They called upon all States parties to the respective international instruments to implement fully and in a transparent manner all their obligations under these instruments.

147. The Ministers *expressed* their satisfaction with the consensus among States on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. They *welcomed* the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly Resolution 63/60 entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction" and underlined the need for this threat to humanity to be addressed within the UN framework and through international co-operation. While *stressing* that the most effective way of preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is through the total elimination of such weapons, they *emphasized* that progress was urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism. They called upon all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. They also *urged* all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture.

148. While *noting* the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), resolution 1673 (2006) and resolution 1810 (2008) by the Security Council, the Ministers underlined the need to ensure that any action by the Security Council does not undermine the UN Charter and existing multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction and of international Organisations established in this regard, as well as the role of the General Assembly. They further cautioned against the continuing practice of the Security Council to utilize its authority to define the legislative requirements for Member States in implementing Security Council decisions. In this regard, the Ministers *stressed* the importance of the issue of non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction to be addressed in an inclusive manner by the General Assembly, *taking into account* the views of all Member States.

149. Mindful of the threat posed to humankind by the existing weapons of mass destruction and underlining the need for the total elimination of such weapons, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the need to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction and therefore *supported* the necessity of monitoring the situation and triggering international action as required.

150. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms for their self-defence and security needs. They *expressed* their

concern about unilateral coercive measures and *emphasized* that no undue restriction should be placed on the transfer of such arms.

151. The Ministers recognised the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between the industrialized and the Non-Aligned Countries, and called for a significant reduction in the production, possession and trade of conventional weapons by the industrialized states with a view to enhancing international and regional peace and security.

152. The Ministers *remained* deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. They *recognized* the need to establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms. They *called on* all States, in particular major producing States, to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments or to entities duly authorized by Governments and to implement legal restrictions and prohibitions preventing the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. They *encouraged* all initiatives by States to mobilize resources and expertise as well as to provide assistance to strengthen the full implementation of the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects.

153. The Ministers *emphasized* the importance of a prompt and full implementation of the Programme of Action, and in this regard, *stressed* that international assistance and cooperation is an essential aspect in the full implementation of the Programme of Action. They *expressed* disappointment at the inability of the UN Conference to Review the Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects, held in New York, from 26 June to 7 July 2006, to agree on a final Document. The Ministers *noted* the third Biennial Meeting of the States (BMS) held in New York, from 14 to 18 July 2008, which considered the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action. They *reaffirmed* the total validity of the Programme of Action and *encouraged* the NAM delegations to coordinate efforts in the UN with a view to reaching agreement on a follow-up to the Programme of Action in order to ensure its full implementation. They called for the full implementation of the international instrument to enable States to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner the illicit small arms and light weapons, which was adopted by the General Assembly.

154. The Ministers continued to deplore the use, in contravention of international humanitarian law of anti-personnel mines in conflict situations aimed at maiming, killing and terrorising innocent civilians, denying them access to farmland, causing famine and forcing them to flee their homes eventually leading to de-population and preventing the return of civilians to their place of original residence. They called upon all States in the position to do so, to provide the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to landmine clearance operations, the social and economic rehabilitation of victims as well as to ensure full access of affected countries to material equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance.

155. The Ministers of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Mine Ban Convention) *invited* those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention.

156. The Ministers *expressed* concern about the explosive remnants of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines which continue to cause human and material damage and obstruct development plans in some Non-Aligned Countries. They *called on* the States primarily responsible for laying these mines and leaving explosives outside their territories during Second World War to cooperate with the affected countries and provide mine action support to affected countries, including information exchange, maps indicating the locations of mines and explosives,

technical assistance for mine clearance, defrayal of the costs of clearance and compensation for any losses caused by mines-laid.

157. The Ministers of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention *recognized* the significance of the Second Review Conference and expressed their appreciation for the commitment of Colombia to prepare and host that Conference to be held in Cartagena, between 30 November and 4 December 2009. Furthermore, they welcomed the regional conferences and workshops in preparation for the Conference and appreciated the efforts of the host States in that regard.

158. The Ministers of States Parties to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocols encouraged States to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols.

159. The Ministers *recognized* the adverse humanitarian impact caused by the use of cluster munitions. They *stressed* the Movement's principled position on the central role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and arms control. They took note of the continued consideration of the issue of cluster munitions in the context of the CCW. They further *took note* that the Convention on Cluster Munitions was opened for signature on 3 December 2008.

160. The Ministers underlined the importance of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 63/54, taking into consideration the possible harmful effects to human health and the environment, caused by the use of weapons and munitions containing depleted uranium.

161. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in this connection, and in this regard, they *welcomed* the adoption without a vote of General Assembly Resolution 63/52. They also *expressed* concern at the increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs. They further *stressed* the importance of the reduction of military expenditures, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and *urged* all States to devote resources made available from there to economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty. They *expressed* firm support for unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures adopted by some governments aimed at reducing military expenditures, thereby contributing to strengthening regional and international peace and security and recognised that confidence building measures assisted in this regard.

162. The Ministers commended the continued work of the NAM Working Group on Disarmament, under the chairmanship of Indonesia, in coordinating issues of common concern to the Movement in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. They *encouraged* all NAM delegations to actively participate at the international disarmament meetings with a view to promote and achieve the objectives of the Movement.

163. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to:

163.1 Continue to pursue the positions and priorities of the Movement, as appropriate, in the relevant international fora; and

163.2 Task the NAM Coordinating Bureau to undertake efforts, as appropriate, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Movement at disarmament and international security meetings.

Terrorism

164. The Ministers *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled position concerning terrorism, as follows:

164.1 Terrorist acts constitute the most flagrant violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life, leading to the lack of the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom of peoples, and that such acts endanger the territorial integrity and stability of States as well as national, regional and international security, de-stabilise legitimately constituted governments or the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of States, affect the stability of nations and the very basis of societies, as well as create adverse consequences on the economic and social development and cause the destruction of the physical and economic infrastructure of States;

164.2 Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group, and that these attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures that include, *inter alia*, profiling of terror suspects and intrusion on individual privacy;

164.3 Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for whatever purposes, wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed are, in any circumstance, unjustifiable, whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them;

164.4 Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. The brutalisation of people remaining under foreign occupation should continue to be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and that the use of State power for the suppression and violence against peoples struggling against foreign occupation in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should continue to be condemned. In this regard and in accordance with the UN Charter, international law and the relevant UN resolutions, the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation does not constitute terrorism;[19]

164.5 The Movement *reaffirmed* its principled position under international law and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 27 January 1992 as well as other relevant UN resolutions on the legitimacy of the struggle of people under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for national liberation and self-determination, which does not constitute terrorism, and once again *called for* the definition of terrorism to differentiate it from the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self determination and national liberation.

165. *Acknowledging* the serious danger and threats posed by terrorism and terrorist acts to the international community, consistent with and guided by the Movement's principled positions thereof as well as *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures:

165.1 *Strongly and unequivocally condemn*, as criminal, and *reject* terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, which are unjustifiable whatever the considerations or factors that may be

19 In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 27 January 1992.

invoked to justify them, and in this context, *reaffirm* their support for the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 27 January 1992 and other relevant UN resolutions;

165.2 Resolve to take speedy and effective measures to eliminate international terrorism, and in this context, urge all States, consistent with the UN Charter, to fulfil their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law combating terrorism, including by prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts; by preventing the organisation, instigation or financing of terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territories or by organisations based in their territories; by refraining from organising, instigating, assisting, financing or participating in terrorist acts in the territories of other States; by refraining from encouraging activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts; by refraining from allowing the use of their territories for planning, training or financing for such acts; or by refraining from supplying arms or other weapons that could be used for terrorist acts in other States;

165.3 *Condemn* any form of, and *refrain* from extending, political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism, and in this context, *urge* all States, consistent with the UN Charter and in fulfilling their obligations under international law, to ensure that refugee status or any other legal status is not abused by the perpetrators, organisers or facilitators of terrorist acts and that claims of political motivation by them are not recognised as grounds for refusing requests for their extradition;

165.4 *Urge* all States, which have not yet done so, to consider to ratify or accede to the thirteen international and UN conventions and protocols relating to combating terrorism;

165.5 *Observe and implement* the provisions of all international conventions as well as regional and bilateral instruments relating to terrorism to which their countries are party, *taking into account* the recommendations of the Final Document of the UN Conference on the Prevention of Crime and Criminal Justice held in Cairo, Egypt in 1995 and the International Conference on Combating Terrorism held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2005;

165.6 *Oppose* attempts to equate the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation with terrorism, in order to prolong occupation and oppression of innocent people with impunity;

165.7 *Further call on* all States to endorse in principle the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the UN to define terrorism, to differentiate it from the struggle for national liberation and to reach comprehensive and effective measures for concerted action. They also *denounced* the brutalisation of peoples kept under foreign occupation as the gravest form of terrorism. They *condemned* the use of State power for the suppression and violence against innocent victims struggling against foreign occupation to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. They *stressed* the sanctity of this right and *urged* that in this era of enlarged freedom and democracy, people under foreign occupation should be allowed to freely determine their destiny. In this context, they *also reaffirmed* their support for General Assembly Resolution 46/51 of 27 January 1992 as well as other relevant UN resolutions and the principled position of the Movement that the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination does not constitute terrorism;

165.8 *Call upon* all states to respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and to *reaffirm* their commitment in this respect to prevent human rights violations in consistency with the rule of law and their obligation under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, and in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

165.9 While *reaffirming* the Movement's principled position on combating international terrorism, and in the light of the previous initiatives and considerations adopted by NAM, and of their conviction that multilateral cooperation under the UN auspices is the most effective means to combat international terrorism, the Ministers *reiterated* their call for an International Summit Conference under the auspices of the UN to formulate a joint organised response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including identifying its root causes;

165.10 Further *reiterate* the importance of the conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism and, in this respect, *noting* the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on Terrorism established by General Assembly Resolution 51/210, for elaboration of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the continuing efforts to that end, and *call upon* all States to co-operate in resolving the outstanding issues;

165.11 Call for a transparent and comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and *agree* to actively engage in future meetings concerning the reviews of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and its implementation in a manner that would advance the principled position of the Movement;

165.12 *Recall* the first biannual review of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy of 5 September 2008 that decided, inter alia, on the interaction of Member States with the Task Force on regular basis, in order to receive briefings and reports on its current and future work, assess the work being undertaken on the Strategy implementation efforts, including the work of the Task Force and its institutionalization, and offer policy guidance as reflected in General Assembly resolution 62/272 of 5 September 2008;

165.13 Strongly condemn the grave acts of terrorism which targeted Iraqi civilians on almost a daily basis in different parts of the country and call for enhancement of international cooperation to support Iraqi capacity building programs to combat all forms of terrorism;

165.14 The Ministers strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack in Islamabad, Pakistan on the Marriot Hotel on September 20, 2008 and the terrorist attack on the visiting Sri Lankan Cricket Team in Lahore, on March 3, 2009, which represented intensification of international terrorism, causing colossal loss of life, destruction and damage, and called for international cooperation in accordance with the obligations of all Member States under relevant international law against the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism;

165.15 The Ministers strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack in Mumbai, India, between November 26 and 29, 2008, which represented an escalation of international terrorism, causing extensive loss of life, destruction and damage, and called for international cooperation of all Member States, in accordance with relevant international law, against the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism;

165.16 Strongly condemned the successive terrorist attacks experienced in the last few years, and more particularly the most recent and dramatic terrorist attacks of 17 February 2009, against the Presidential Palace in the capital city of Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, which caused significant loss of human life, destruction and damage, and called for international cooperation, in accordance with the obligations of all Member States under relevant international law, against the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terror;

165.17 *Support* the initiative launched by Tunisia in order to elaborate by consensus an International Code of Conduct within the framework of the UN aimed at reinforcing co-ordination and multilateral efforts for the prevention of terrorism, in all its forms and

manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed, in conformity with international law and the UN Charter, pending the conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism;

165.18 *Hold* a NAM Ministerial Meeting on the issue of terrorism at the most appropriate date, based on the progress of the discussions and negotiations on this issue at the United Nations;

165.19 *Support* national, regional and international efforts and arrangements that seek to implement, where appropriate, the pertinent international legally binding instruments, as well as the relevant UN resolutions,[20] including General Assembly resolution 46/51 and Security Council resolution 1373, and regional arrangements and instruments relating to combating terrorism;[21] *strengthen* the cooperation with all States in this regard, *emphasizing* that such cooperation should be in conformity with the UN Charter, international law and the relevant international conventions; and in this context, *urge* the relevant UN organs to promote ways and means to support and strengthen such cooperation;

165.20 *Reject* actions and measures, the use or threat of use of force in particular by armed forces, which violate the UN Charter and international law especially the relevant international conventions, imposed or threatened to be imposed by any State against any Non-Aligned Country under the pretext of combating terrorism or to pursue its political aims, including by directly or indirectly categorising them as terrorism sponsoring-States. They called upon the Security Council to promote legitimacy and credibility of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, in particular by addressing the concerns of due process and transparency in its listing and delisting procedure and in granting exemption. They further *totally reject* the use of the term "axis of evil" by a certain State to target other States under the pretext of combating terrorism, as well as the unilateral preparation of lists accusing States of allegedly supporting terrorism, which are inconsistent with international law and constitute on their part a form of psychological and political terrorism and in this context, *underscoring* the need to *exercise* solidarity with the Non-Aligned Countries that are affected by such actions and measures; and

165.21 *Introduce* comprehensive qualitative changes to national laws and legislations of Non-Aligned Countries, in order to criminalise all terrorist acts as well as support, financing or instigation of such acts;

165.22 *Reaffirm* their support to the proposal of The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud to establish the International Centre to combat terrorism adopted by the International Conference to combat terrorism held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in February 2005. The Riyadh Conference asserted that elimination of terrorism is only possible through a coordinated international efforts and cooperation. The Conference called upon the

20 These include General Assembly resolution 46/51 and Security Council resolution 1373.

21 These include the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which was adopted in Algiers in July 1999 and entered into force on 6 December 2003, and its Plan of Action, which was adopted by the 2nd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Maputo on 12 July 2003; the Arab Convention to Combat Terrorism, which entered into force on 7 May 1999; the OIC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, which was adopted in Ouagadougou on 1 July 1999; the OIC Declaration on Terrorism, which was adopted by the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Kuala Lumpur on 3 April 2002; the ASEAN Declarations on Terrorism adopted by the 7th and 8th ASEAN Summits in 2001 and 2002 respectively; the ASEAN Joint Declarations to Combat International Terrorism with the USA of 1 August 2002, with the EU of 28 January 2003, with India of 8 October 2003 and with Russia of 2 July 2004, and the ASEAN-China Joint Declaration on Co-operation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues (4 November 2002); the Protocol on the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism to the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, which was adopted at the SAARC Summit in Islamabad in January 2004.

United Nations to establish the centre to exchange information and share expertise, and coordinate efforts to monitor the activities of terrorist organization and individuals closely.

Democracy[22]

166. The Ministers *reiterated* that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. They *reaffirmed* that while all democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy, that it does not belong to any country or region, and further *reaffirmed* the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination. They *expressed* their conviction that international co-operation for the promotion of democracy, on the basis of respect for the principles enshrined in the UN Charter as well as those of transparency, impartiality, non-selectivity and inclusiveness, could contribute to the attainment of the goal of democracy consolidation at national and international levels.

167. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The international community should support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the entire world, without distinction between developed and developing countries, in compliance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

168. The Minister recalled the constitutional processes that have been taking place recently in several Latin American countries as an expression of respect to and strengthening of democracy based on the freely expressed will and participation of the people of those countries to determine their own political, economic, legal, social and cultural systems.

169. The Ministers recalled the pledge by the leaders of UN Member States, as *reaffirmed* in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and *noted* the important role of the UN in the promotion and strengthening of democratic practices in Member States which have sought legal, technical and financial assistance. The Ministers *took note* of the work of the UN Democracy Fund.

170. The Ministers welcomed the launching of the Bali Democracy Forum organized by the government of the Republic of Indonesia in Bali on 10-11 December 2008, as an intergovernmental forum to promote democracy in the Asia-Pacific region that is home-grown and not imposing, based on the principles of equal participation, sharing of best practices, dialogue and international cooperation. The Ministers also took note of the activities of the Bali Democracy Forum organized by the Institute for Peace and Democracy in Bali.

171. The Ministers *welcomed* the successful organization of the Sixth International Conference on New or Restored Democracies held in Doha, Qatar from 30 October to 1 November 2006 and appreciated the active participation in this Conference.

172. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

172.1 *Work* collectively for the promotion of democracy and for more inclusive political processes allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all countries, including seeking assistance from the UN on a voluntary basis;

22 This section should be read in conjunction with the section on Human Rights under Chapter III of the Document.

172.2 *Promote,* while *recognizing* the importance of the promotion of democracy at the national level, the democratisation of the system of international governance in order to increase the participation of developing countries in international decision-making; and

172.3 *Oppose and condemn* any politically motivated attempt or misuse of the international co-operation for the promotion of democracy, including the marginalisation or exclusion of Non-Aligned Countries from the full participation and equal opportunities of membership in the intergovernmental bodies of the UN system.

North-South Dialogue and Cooperation

173. In *acknowledging* the need for an increased interaction between the leaders of developing and developed world, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

173.1 *Generate, expand and deepen* a more dynamic relationship and co-operation with developed and industrialised countries, in particular with the Group of Eight, firmly rooted on mutual respect, mutuality of benefits, shared and differentiated responsibilities, constructive engagement and dialogue, broad partnership and genuine interdependence, with the aim of forging compatible or complementary responses or initiatives on global issues and generate greater understanding between the North and the South;

173.2 *Continue to hold* Ministerial Meetings between the Troikas of NAM and the European Union, within the framework of ordinary sessions of the General Assembly, aimed at facilitating comprehensive and transparent exchange of views of common interest to be addressed in the UNGA sessions;

173.3 *Taking note* of the successful Ministerial meetings held by the Chair of the NAM with others interested parties, to continue to hold meetings, including at the Ministerial level, between the Chair of NAM and other interested parties, as appropriate, on issues of common interest;

173.4 *Ensure* that the views of developing countries are fully taken into account before decisions on relevant issues[23] affecting them and the international community are made by developed countries, which could be achieved through, inter alia, institutionalising established contacts between the leaders at the highest level of developing and developed countries, and in this context, *request* the Chair of the Movement to coordinate with the Chair of the Group of 77 and China to identify measures that could contribute towards achieving this objective; and

173.5 *Call on* international meetings and conferences, including the annual Summits of the Group of Eight to take into account the interests and concerns of developing countries, especially in the current situation and serious adverse impacts of the global economic and financial crises on their development, and *request* the Chair of the Movement to continue to convey those interests and concerns;

173.6 *Highlight* the importance of North South Cooperation being aligned with national development priorities of recipient countries as well as the importance of increasing the efficiency of development assistance.

23 The relevant issues include peace and security questions including international terrorism, trade and finance policies, external debt and debt forgiveness/cancellation, the environment including climate change, and energy security.

Role of Regional Organisations

174. The Ministers *underscored* the important role that regional arrangements and agencies, composed of Non-Aligned and other developing countries, can play in the promotion of regional peace and security as well as economic and social development through cooperation among countries in the region.

175. The Ministers called for the intensification of the process of consultations, cooperation, and coordination between the UN and regional and sub-regional organisations, arrangements, or agencies, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, as well as on their mandate, scope and composition, which is useful and can contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

176. The Ministers recalled the UN Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and *called on* the international community to renew commitment for NEPAD and other related initiatives for Africa, *noting* in this regard the efforts exerted by the African Union and other regional economic communities in the area of economic integration, as well as ongoing efforts by the African Union in the operationalisation of the provision contained in General Assembly resolution 59/213 highlighting the particular areas of required support by the UN system to the African Union, in the social, economic, political, peace and security areas, and *express* their full commitment to continue to advocate the necessity for continued international support required to meet the special needs of Africa as contained in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Outcome Summit.

CHAPTER II:

REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES

Middle East

Peace Process

177. The Ministers stressed the need for urgent efforts to advance a Middle East peace process based on Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425, 1397, 1515 and 1850, the Madrid terms of reference and the principle of land for peace. They rejected attempts to alter the terms of reference of the peace process, including the imposition of unilateral measures and schemes by Israel, the occupying Power, aimed at forcibly and illegally imposing a unilateral solution. They affirmed that such illegal measures, including in particular the construction and expansion of settlements and the Wall, are totally contradictory to the peace process and must be ceased completely for any resumption of peace negotiations. In this regard, they stressed the need for intensified and coordinated efforts by the international community to promote a genuine peace process as well as to ensure respect for international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, the key to a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.

178. On this basis, the Ministers stressed the need for the resumption, in a timely and appropriate manner, of substantial negotiations between the parties on all tracks of the peace process for the achievement of a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement, based on the relevant U.N. resolutions and in accordance with the rules and principles of international law enshrined therein. In this regard, they reiterated the necessity and urgency of ending the prolonged and unlawful Israeli occupation of all of the Arab territories occupied since 1967. They further reaffirmed their long-standing position in support of the establishment of the independent State of Palestine in all of the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel in 1967, including East Jerusalem as its capital.

179. The Ministers recalled the historic role to be played by and the obligations of the international community, including the Security Council, towards advancing a just and comprehensive peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as a whole, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and regional stability. They called upon the Quartet, in light of the responsibilities undertaken by its members, to exert serious efforts and actions to support and promote negotiations on all final status issues, including full implementation of the provisions of the Road Map for a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They also called upon the Security Council to engage the Quartet, considering the Council's Charter authority and responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and called on the members of the NAM Caucus of the Council to remain active in this regard.

180. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Arab Peace Initiative, which was adopted by the XIV Arab Summit in Beirut in March 2002, and welcomed the resolutions of the XXI Arab Summit in Doha in March 2009 which reaffirmed the commitment by all Arab states to the Arab Peace Initiative and stressed that this peace initiative will not remain on the table for long, as stipulated in the documents adopted by the Doha Arab Summit in 2009.

Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

181. The Ministers reaffirmed their adherence to the positions concerning Palestine adopted by the XIV Summit of Heads of State or Government held in Havana in September 2006, as well as by the recent NAM Ministerial Conferences and Meetings, including the XV Ministerial Conference held in Tehran in July 2008, which constitute the guidelines for the Non-Aligned Countries on the question of Palestine. In this regard, they further reaffirmed their adherence to the principled positions set forth in the Declarations on Palestine adopted by the NAM Committee on Palestine during the XIV Summit and the XV Ministerial Conference.

182. The Ministers expressed their deep regret that the question of Palestine remains unresolved after the passage of more than sixty years since the 1948 Al-Nakba[24] that befell the Palestinian people, by which they became a stateless and dispossessed people, displaced and dispersed from their homeland of Palestine, and that more than half of the Palestinian people continue to live in exile in refugee camps throughout the region and in the Diaspora. The Ministers also expressed their deep regret that since 1967, for nearly forty-two years now, the Palestinian people have continuously suffered under the brutal Israeli military occupation of their land and continue to be denied their fundamental human rights, including the right to self-determination and the right of the Palestine refugees to return.

183. The Ministers *reiterated* their regret at the lack of progress made, despite increased international efforts and a resumption of the peace process in late November 2007, to address the major issues and follow-up core positions regarding the question of Palestine. They also expressed their grave concern in particular about the serious deterioration of the situation and critical political, economic, social humanitarian and security conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of ongoing unlawful policies and practices by Israel, the occupying Power.

184. In this regard, the Ministers *condemned* Israel's continuing military occupation of the Palestinian Territory in breach of international law and UN resolutions. They *condemned* the continuing brutal Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip, by which the occupying Power has continued to commit grave human rights violations and reported war crimes, including by use of excessive and indiscriminate force that has killed and injured thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, and has caused vast destruction of properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands. They *condemned* also Israel's detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians, including hundreds of women and children and numerous elected officials, and called for their immediate release. They *condemned* also illegal Israeli settlement activities by which the occupying Power has continued to colonize the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international law. They also *condemned* Israel's continued imposition of collective punishment on the Palestinian people by various illegal means and measures. The Ministers *reiterated* their demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all such violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law.

185. The Ministers *condemned* in the strongest terms the recent Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the killing of more than 1,400 Palestinians, including hundreds of children and women, and the injury of more than 5,500 Palestinians. They *condemned* also Israel's wanton destruction of thousands of Palestinian homes; business properties; vital civilian infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity systems;

24 This is the term commonly used to refer to the catastrophe and tragedy that befell the Palestinian people in 1948, by which they lost their homeland and by which the majority of Palestinians were forcibly uprooted from their homes and displaced, becoming refugees, whose plight continues until this day.

hospitals and ambulances; mosques; public institutions, including schools and national ministries; farms; and several UN facilities. The Ministers *called* upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease immediately its military aggression against the Palestinian people and stressed the importance of reaching a permanent, durable ceasefire starting in the Gaza Strip and extending to the West Bank, and expressed support for Egyptian efforts in this regard.

186. The Ministers *called* upon the international community, including the Security Council, to ensure that thorough investigations are carried out of all the crimes and violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Gaza Strip and that serious follow-up efforts are undertaken to hold accountable the perpetrators of such crimes and bring an end to Israel's impunity and defiance of the law. In this connection, they *called* for immediate action to follow-up the findings of the investigation by the UN Secretary-General's Board of Inquiry and by the fact-finding mission to be dispatched by the Human Rights Council.

187. The Ministers also *condemned* Israel's inhumane, unlawful closure and blockade of the Gaza Strip, which has resulted in the virtual imprisonment of the entire Palestinian civilian population there by obstructing their freedom of movement, including the movement of sick persons, students and humanitarian personnel; obstructed access to humanitarian aid and all essential goods, including food, medicines, fuel, electricity and construction materials; and obstructed all commercial flows. They expressed serious concern about the grave deterioration of socio-economic conditions and the deepening of the humanitarian crisis due to the blockade, which has caused widespread deprivation, poverty and hardship in addition to the vast trauma and suffering inflicted by the military aggression. The Ministers *stressed* that, in addition to violating countless provisions of human rights law, such collective punishment measures by Israel are tantamount to grave breaches of international humanitarian law, by which it is bound as the occupying Power and with which it must scrupulously comply. They demanded that Israel cease such illegal practices against the Palestinian people, end its illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip and promptly and unconditionally open all its crossing points with the Strip in accordance with International Humanitarian Law and all United Nations resolutions, including relevant Security Council resolutions.

188. The Ministers *reiterated* their strong condemnation of Israel's continuing intensive campaign of settler colonization, including vast land confiscations; the construction and expansion of illegal settlements, settlement "outposts" and settlement infrastructure; the transfer of more Israeli settlers; the construction of the Wall; home demolitions; excavations; and the imposition of arbitrary and racist residency and movement restrictions via a permit regime and hundreds of checkpoints throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. They reiterated that such policies and measures by Israel, the occupying Power, constitute grave breaches of international law and flagrant defiance of UN resolutions and the 9 July 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice. They stressed the incompatibility of peace process negotiations with such illegal colonization activities, which are clearly aimed at the illegal acquisition and *de facto* annexation of more Palestinian land and forcibly imposing a unilateral solution. In this connection, they expressed their deep concern about the extensive physical, economic and social devastation being caused by the Israeli settlements, Wall and network of checkpoints, which are severing the Palestinian Territory into separate areas, including several walled cantons; isolating East Jerusalem from the rest of the Territory; displacing thousands of Palestinians from their homes and completely destroying some communities. They stressed that this illegal Israeli colonization campaign in its entirety is gravely undermining the contiguity, integrity, viability and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and jeopardizing the prospects for physically achieving the two-State solution for peace.

189. The Ministers demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all of its colonization activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. They *reaffirmed* all relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, including those relating

to Jerusalem and confirming that it is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory; demanded their full implementation; and considered that all Israeli measures aimed at altering the legal, geographic and demographic character and status of Jerusalem and of the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a whole are null and void and have no legal validity whatsoever. They further reaffirmed that these unlawful measures cannot alter the terms of reference of the peace process nor negate the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. In the face of continued Israeli defiance, the Ministers called for urgent action by the international community to compel the occupying Power to abide by all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, UN resolutions, the Advisory Opinion and its obligations under the Road Map in this regard. They also reiterated their call for the expeditious operation of the *"United Nations Register of Damage caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory"* and the speedy fulfilment of its mandate.

190. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian Authority under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas and emphasized the importance of maintaining and protecting the national, democratic institutions of the Palestinian Authority, including the Palestinian Legislative Council which shall constitute a vital foundation for the future independent Palestinian State. The Ministers also reiterated their call for the speedy restoration of the situation in the Gaza Strip to that which existed prior to the events of June 2007 and stressed the importance and urgency of Palestinian reconciliation and unity, and requested the International Community to respect what the Palestinians agree upon. They expressed their support for Egyptian and regional efforts in this regard and their hope for speedy achievement of reconciliation, essential for the realization of the just, legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people.

191. The Ministers called for intensification of efforts by the entire international community, in particular the Security Council and the Quartet, to address the current political and humanitarian crisis, in order to ameliorate the situation on the ground and to help advance a peace process and settlement that guarantees an end of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that began in 1967, and the establishment of the sovereign, independent, and viable state of Palestine within a specified timeframe as well as a just solution for the Palestine refugee problem based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III). They stressed that such a settlement is essential for the promotion of comprehensive peace and security in the region. They called upon the Security Council, considering its Charter authority for the maintenance of international peace and security, to actively engage the Quartet for advancement of such a peace settlement. They stressed the continuing importance of the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Road Map and called for its full and honest implementation. In this connection, they emphasized the importance of the timely convening of the proposed international conference in Moscow in follow-up of the Annapolis Conference.

192. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the necessity of upholding international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter with regard to the question of Palestine under all circumstances. They also *reaffirmed* the permanent responsibility of the UN towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects on the basis of international law and stressed the need for all relevant UN organs, committees and agencies to exert efforts to this end. They once more called upon the UN not to reward illegal actions and intransigence and to increase its efforts towards the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace settlement, based on the two-State solution, and the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. In this context, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to the right of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in their independent State of Palestine, on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

193. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers agreed to undertake the following measures:

193.1 *Continue* holding meetings at the ministerial level of the NAM Committee on Palestine, within the framework of the Coordinating Bureau Ministerial Meetings that take place at the outset of UNGA ordinary sessions and during any other Ministerial Meetings of the Movement, whenever necessary and in accordance with the developments on this issue;

193.2 *Maintain* regular contacts and dialogue at the ministerial level between the NAM Ministerial Delegation on Palestine and the members of the Quartet and the Members of the UN Security Council, with a view to coordinating and enhancing the role played by NAM in the international efforts seeking a solution to the question of Palestine and lasting peace in the region;

193.3 *Continue* to actively participate in the UN Security Council, including via a proactive role of the NAM Caucus of the Council, and General Assembly meetings addressing the question of Palestine;

193.4 *Convene* a parallel forum of civil society in 2009, preferably within UN premises, intended to mobilize international public opinion on this issue and thus make a substantial contribution to attaining a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Occupied Syrian Golan

194. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that all measures and actions taken, or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, such as its illegal decision of 14 December 1981 that purports to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its institutional structure, as well as the Israeli measures to apply its jurisdiction and administration there, are null and void and have no legal effect. They further *reaffirmed* that all such measures and actions, including the illegality of Israeli settlement construction and expansion activities in the Occupied Syrian Golan since 1967, constitute a flagrant violation of international law, international conventions, the Charter and decisions of the UN, particularly Security Council Resolution 497 (1981), the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, and the defiance of will of the international community. They *reiterated* the Movement's demand that Israel comply with Security Council Resolution 497 (1981) and withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967, in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and that Israel adheres to the Madrid terms of reference based on the principle of land for peace, which are in their entirety considered to be a primary and basic element in the negotiation process that should be adhered to, including the immediate commencement of the demarcation of the 4 June 1967 line.

195. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Movement's unwavering support and solidarity with the Syrian just demand and rights to restore the full Syrian sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan on the basis of the terms of reference of the Arab Peace Initiative, the Madrid Peace Process, as well as the principle of land for peace and in accordance with relevant Security Council Resolutions. They again demanded that Israel respect all its commitments and pledges.

196. The Ministers reiterated their demand for Israel to comply immediately and unconditionally with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War, dated 12 August 1949, and to apply them to the Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan. They strongly condemned the Israeli brutal practices in Israeli occupation prisons, and expressed

their grave concern at the inhuman conditions of the Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan which have led to the deterioration of their physical health and put their lives at risk, in a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

197. The Ministers called upon Israel, the occupying power, to reopen the Quneitra entry point, to facilitate the visits of the Syrian citizens under Israeli occupation to their motherland, Syria.

Lebanon, the Remaining Occupied Lebanese Lands, and the Consequences of the Israeli Aggression against Lebanon

198. The Ministers reiterated their congratulations to the people and leaders of Lebanon and *welcomed* and *strongly supported* the agreement reached in Doha on May 21 under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, pursuant to the efforts of the Ministerial Committee of the Arab League, chaired by the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani, and the Secretary General of the Arab League, Amr Musa, which constituted an essential step towards the return to the normal functioning of Lebanese democratic institutions, and the complete restoration of Lebanon's unity and stability.

199. The Ministers highly valued the important role of the President of the Republic in convening and chairing the National Dialogue sessions to continue the consolidation of national reconciliation, to reinforce the authority of the State over all its territories in a manner that guarantees its sovereignty and security, and to implement the previous decisions of the National Dialogue. The Ministers welcomed the commencement of the rebuilding of the Nahr El Bared Camp and, in this regard, called on the donor countries to increase their assistance and to honour their previous commitments. The Ministers further welcomed the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic as a step towards the further strengthening of their relations. The Ministers took note of the commencement of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon to uncover the truth behind the assassination of the previous Prime Minister Hariri, establish justice and end impunity, away from revenge and politicization.

200. The Ministers *expressed* strong condemnation of the relentless Israeli aggression launched against Lebanon in 2006 and the serious violations by Israel of the Lebanese territorial integrity and sovereignty, and in this regard charged Israel with full responsibility for the consequences of its aggression.

201. The Ministers *expressed* solidarity with and support for the Government and people of Lebanon, hailed their heroic resistance to the Israeli aggression, and *emphasized* the primordial importance of Lebanon's national unity and stability.

202. The Ministers, *emphasizing* the principles of International Humanitarian Law, *condemned* the targeting of civilians wherever it may occur.

203. The Ministers in particular *strongly condemned* the indiscriminate and massive Israeli air strikes and shelling on Lebanese towns and villages in 2006 targeting civilians, civil infrastructure and private properties which constitute a serious breach of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law, and blatant and flagrant violations of human rights.

204. The Ministers were *strongly convinced* that there should be no impunity for violations of international law and international humanitarian law and human rights, and that Israel should be held accountable for its apparent commission of large scale crimes. Furthermore Israel should, without further delay, surrender all the maps and information on the exact locations of the land mines and cluster munitions it had planted in Lebanon to the United Nations as these mines and

cluster munitions are causing lots of death and terror among both the civilian population and the Lebanese Army.

205. The Ministers called for a strict implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006), and in this respect called for an immediate and complete cease fire, and for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon with full respect for the Blue Line and the sovereignty of Lebanon in land, sea, and air.

206. The Ministers *welcomed* the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces in the region south of the Litani River, such that there will be no weapon or authority other than that of the Lebanese State as stipulated in the Taef National Reconciliation Document, and *called on* States to expedite their contribution to Lebanon as requested by Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006).

207. The Ministers *expressed* full support for the Seven-Point Plan presented by the Lebanese Government, and *emphasized* the importance of the contribution of the United Nations in settling the issue of the Sheba'a Farms in accordance with the proposal mentioned in the aforementioned Seven-Point Plan and with UNSCR 1701 (2006), and called upon all relevant parties to cooperate with the United Nations to reach a solution to the Sheba'a Farms issue which protects Lebanon's sovereign rights including water rights in that area.

208. The Ministers called for a generous contribution to the ongoing humanitarian relief efforts, and *urged* the international community to support Lebanon on all levels to assist the Lebanese in facing the tremendous burden resulting from the human, social and economic tragedy, and in enhancing the Lebanese national economy.

209. The Ministers held Israel responsible for the loss of lives and suffering as well as the destruction of properties and infrastructure in Lebanon, and demanded Israel to compensate the Republic of Lebanon and its people for the losses sustained resulting from Israel's aggression in 2006.

210. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic in order to strengthen their brotherly relations.

211. The Ministers, pursuant to the failure of other means, *emphasized* the necessity of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict based on relevant UN Resolutions leading to the establishment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East as was called for by the Arab Peace Initiative of Beirut in 2002.

Africa

Chagos Archipelago

212. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, is an integral part of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Mauritius. They noted that the former colonial power, the United Kingdom, and Mauritius held a first round of talks on the Chagos Archipelago issue in January 2009, and welcomed the initiative to pursue the dialogue through other rounds of talks. They called on the United Kingdom to expedite the process with a view to enable Mauritius to exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

213. The Ministers recalled previous positions of the Movement and *reiterated* their deep regret for the conviction of Libyan citizen Abdulbasit El-Magrahi, and demanded the immediate release of the said citizen, in view of the fact that his conviction was politically motivated, without any valid legal grounds, as confirmed by the UN Observers, and large numbers of international legal experts. In this context, they called upon the international community and human rights Organisations to exert pressure on the governments concerned to secure his release.

214. The Ministers *welcomed* the lifting of unilateral sanctions imposed on Libya, and *acknowledged* Libya's right to compensation for the damages incurred as a consequence of these sanctions.

Somalia

215. The Ministers reaffirmed their respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations.

216. The Ministers welcomed the positive political developments and progress made in the Djibouti peace process, including the establishment of an inclusive Parliament, the election of President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and the subsequent formation of the Somali Government led by Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke.

217. The Ministers commended the Somali Government's effort at reaching out to those outside the Djibouti peace process and re-establishing security and rule of law in Mogadishu and the rest of the country. They reiterated their call for the peaceful resolution of the Somali conflict as the only way to a durable peace and genuine reconciliation and called upon all parties that had not yet joined the political process to do so.

218. The Ministers stressed the importance of re-establishing, training and retention of Somali security forces and welcomed the Secretary General's proposal for a partnership between the Somali Government, the United Nations, AMISOM and other international partners to develop a program of assistance to rebuild Somali Security Forces.

219. The Ministers commended the contribution of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to lasting peace and stability in Somalia, expressed their appreciation for the continued commitment of the Government of Uganda and Burundi in Somalia and called upon the members and international community to provide resources for it to better fulfill its mandate.

220. The Ministers paid tribute to the AU Partners and members states, in particular Algeria, for providing financial and logistical support to AMISOM. The Ministers welcomed the completion by Ethiopia of the withdrawal of its forces from Somalia in line with the Djibouti Agreement and reiterated their appreciation for the sacrifice made by Ethiopia and its commitment to the search for a lasting solution to the conflict in Somalia.

221. The Ministers expressed their concern at the continuing acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia and Gulf of Aden and condemned those acts which hamper the delivery of humanitarian aid to Somalia and pose a threat to commercial maritime and international navigation in the region. In this context, they commended the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the international community to fight piracy while reiterating the need to address the root causes of piracy on the mainland.

222. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1816 (2008), and stressed that this resolution should be implemented in a manner fully consistent with International Law, including the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea. They also welcomed the serious efforts by NAM countries and others, that have deployed their naval vessels in the territorial waters of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, to assist in countering acts of piracy and armed robbery, and welcomed as well the establishment of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia which held its first meeting in New York on January 14, 2009, and urges the Contact Group on Piracy to continue strengthening its work with the participation of all interested States in countering piracy and armed robbery in the sea off the coastal region of Somalia.

223. The Ministers called upon the international community, including member states of NAM, to mobilize resources and support the urgently needed humanitarian assistance, to the internally displaced persons and those affected by the severe draught in Somalia.

224. The Ministers expressed their support for the government and people of Somalia and encourage the international community to extend financial and technical support to the government in its efforts towards re-building vital institutions especially in the areas of security and the rule of law, and enhancing its capacity for the provision of basic services.

The Sudan

225. The Ministers commended the African Union (AU), the IGAD and the Friends of IGAD for their indispensable role and efforts, which had culminated in the achievement of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005 in The Sudan, hence ending one of the longest running wars in the African continent and thereby contributing to regional peace, and *called on* donors to fulfil their commitments made in Oslo in 2005 and 2008 to help implement that agreement. They *welcomed* the signing on 5 May 2006 of the Darfur Peace Agreement in Abuja, Nigeria as a historic step towards lasting peace in Darfur, and further commended the AU for its leading role and efforts in sustaining peace and stability in the Darfur region. They *encouraged* the political process as a priority and *emphasized* the need to focus on developmental assistance in Darfur as peace and development are mutually reinforced. They *expressed* the Movement's resolve, therefore, to support The Sudan as well as the AU and IGAD in their efforts to sustain and reinforce peace in that country, and *called on* the international community to do likewise.

226. The Ministers *reiterated* their commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of The Sudan.

227. The Ministers *noted* with satisfaction the sustained efforts being made by the Government of The Sudan, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the United Nations to reactivate the political process leading to a lasting peace in Darfur. They *expressed* their conviction that no action should be taken that could jeopardize the delicate nature of the process underway in The Sudan. In that context, the Ministers *expressed* deep concern over the recent move by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the Honourable President of The Sudan, and considered that this action could seriously undermine the ongoing efforts aimed at facilitating the early resolution of the conflict in Darfur and the promotion of long-lasting peace and reconciliation in The Sudan and could lead to greater destabilization with far reaching consequences for the country and the region. Therefore, they decided to support steps in the United Nations and elsewhere aimed at defusing this new and dangerous situation and preventing its recurrence.

The Great Lakes Region

228. The Ministers *welcomed* efforts by the countries of the Great Lakes region of Africa to establish a framework for sustainable development, durable peace and stability in the region. Following the signing of the Dar-es-Salam Declaration on Peace, Stability, Democracy and Good Governance, they further *welcomed* the coming into force of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development of the Great Lakes region signed on 15 December 2006 in Nairobi and entered into force on 21 June 2008.

229. In this regard, the Ministers *reiterated* the importance of continued support of the international community towards convening the Third Summit of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region in Kinshasa at which the Special Fund (SFRD) for Reconstruction and Development will be launched. They also *took note* with satisfaction of the positive development in Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Zimbabwe

230. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the Global Political Agreement by the main political parties in Zimbabwe on 15 September 2008 and the formation of the inclusive Government on 13 February 2009.

231. The Ministers commended regional efforts towards finding a solution to the problems of Zimbabwe. In that regard, they paid tribute to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for its mediation efforts and the region's on-going efforts to help Zimbabwe to rebuild its economy.

232. The Ministers expressed their hope that the new political dispensation in Zimbabwe will promote national efforts to rebuild the economy. In this regard, the Ministers called for the immediate lifting of arbitrary and unilateral sanctions by those states and parties that have imposed the economically crippling measures on Zimbabwe.

Western Sahara

233. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the previous positions of the Non-Aligned Movement on the question of Western Sahara.

234. The Ministers *reaffirmed* all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council on Western Sahara. They *reaffirmed* UN General Assembly resolution 62/116, adopted without a vote, and *reiterated* that, in accordance with the said resolution, they continued *to support strongly* the efforts of the Secretary General and his Personal Envoy to achieve a mutually acceptable political solution which will provide self-determination for the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and other relevant resolutions. The Ministers *recognized* that all available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly Resolutions.

235. Bearing in mind the above, the Ministers *welcomed* the four rounds of negotiation held under the auspices of the Secretary General and *welcomed* the commitment of the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue, in order to enter into a more

intensive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of Security Council resolutions 1754, 1783 and 1813 and the success of negotiations. They *took note* of efforts and developments since 2006.

236. They called upon the parties and the States in the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary General and his Personal Envoy, and with each other, and *reaffirmed* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara. They further *welcomed* the commitment of the parties to continue the process of negotiations through United Nations sponsored talks.

Comorian Island of Mayotte

237. The Ministers reiterated once again the unquestionable sovereignty of the Union of Comoros over the island of Mayotte. In this regard, they condemned and considered null and void the referendum of March 29, 2009, organized by the Government of France in the Comorian island of Mayotte that constituted a violation of the sovereignty of the Comorian State and of its territorial integrity and represents a grave breach of international law and of relevant United Nations resolutions.

238. The Ministers deplored the current involvement of France in the affairs of Mayotte and vigorously rejected any further integration of the Comorian Island of Mayotte within the French territorial Administration.

Djibouti / Eritrea:

239. The Ministers recalling the principles of good neighbourliness, non interference and regional cooperation expressed their concerns on the situation between the two neighbouring countries and called on both members to solve their differences through bilateral and collective diplomatic and peaceful means and to engage actively in dealing with Security Council resolution 1862 (2009).

Asia

Afghanistan

240. The Ministers *reiterated* their commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, *welcomed* the achievements made since the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in 2002 and the ongoing democratic process in the country. They recognised that the challenges faced by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its people are enormous. Recognising the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, they *noted* that sustainable progress on development, security and governance was mutually reinforcing. They further recognised that the establishment of peace and security remains essential for the reconstruction, humanitarian relief efforts and sustainable development in that country.

241. The Ministers *welcomed* the regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan held in New Delhi from 18-19 November 2006, for the promotion of the regional economic cooperation among the countries of the region, including neighbours of Afghanistan. They looked forward to the Third Regional Economic Cooperation Conference in Afghanistan to be held in Islamabad on 2009.

They also *welcomed* Afghanistan's membership of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and commended Afghanistan for the excellent arrangement and outcome of the 17th Ministerial meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Hirat, 17-20 October 2007. The also welcomed the convening of the 10th summit of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), held in Tehran on 11 March 2009.

242. The Ministers *welcomed* the holding of Paris Conference (June 12-14 2008) as a new step to secure a strong international engagement for the effective implementation of London Compact and Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), in this regard *stressed* on the importance of the complete coordination between political and developmental activities of International Organization active in Afghanistan and channelling of the Aid mostly through the core budget of the Government of Afghanistan.

243. The Ministers *expressed* their deep concern that the terrorist groups including former Taliban cadres were regrouping in the Southern and South Eastern parts of Afghanistan. Equally of concern was that the efforts of the international community to fight terrorism were being undermined by support, protection and shelter that these forces of destabilization continue to receive.

244. The Ministers also recalled the importance of the Kabul Declaration of 22 December 2002 on Good-Neighbourly Relations, in which a commitment to constructive and supportive bilateral relationships based on the principles of territorial integrity, mutual respect, friendly relations, cooperation and non-interference in each others' internal affairs have been *reaffirmed*, and *noted* that regional cooperation constituted an effective means to promote security and development in Afghanistan.

245. The Ministers *welcomed* the Afghan-Pakistan Joint Peace Jirga process, for the purpose of bringing sustainable peace and normalcy in Afghanistan and in the region.

246. The Ministers expressed deep appreciation to countries, in particular the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting a large number of Afghans and acknowledge the huge burden they have shouldered in this regard.

247. The Ministers *expressed* the Movement's resolve therefore to:

247.1 *Call upon* the International Community to extend its support for the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact adopted by London Conference to fulfill expeditiously its financial commitments announced at the International Donor Conferences for the Reconstruction of Afghanistan, held in Tokyo in January 2002, Berlin in March 2004, London 31st January-1st February 2006 and lastly June 12-14 in Paris;

247.2 *Strongly condemn* the terrorist and criminal acts committed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups, including the rising trend of suicide attacks, against the Afghan people;

247.3 *Strongly condemn* the suicide terrorist attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul on 7th July 2008 in which around 60 Afghan nationals, including women and children, and four Indian nationals lost their lives and many other Afghan and Indian nationals were injured. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their conviction that this attack once again underlined the need for strengthening international cooperation in the global fight against terrorism. The Ministers also *reaffirmed* their conviction that this incident and any such incident would not deter the Afghan nation and the international community in their struggle against forces of terrorism in reconstruction and development of Afghanistan;

247.4 *Support* the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its leadership in defending and preserving its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity, including through eliminating the threats to its peace and security;

247.5 Welcome the ongoing preparations for the upcoming presidential and provincial council elections in Afghanistan and call upon the International Community and relevant United Nations Agencies to assist the Government of Afghanistan to ensure safe, credible and democratic elections in Afghanistan on August 2009;

247.6 *Contribute* to the peace, security, reconstruction, humanitarian relief efforts and sustainable development in Afghanistan, *mindful* of the concrete measures already taken by Non-Aligned Countries thereof; and

247.7 *Support* efforts by the international donor community, including Non-Aligned Countries, geared toward ensuring the successful implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) the Afghanistan Compact adopted in London, 31 January-1 February 2006 and Paris Conference June 12-14 2008;

247.8 *Call on* the international community and relevant UN agencies for the provision of enhanced assistance to the Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to facilitate their voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration into the society of origin so as to contribute to the stability of Afghanistan;

247.9 *Calls upon* the International community to increase its assistance to enhance the capacity of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to carry out its National Drug Control Strategy, aimed at elimination of production and trafficking of narcotics and create alternative livelihood for the farmers by strengthen crop substitution program in Afghanistan.

Iraq:

248. The Ministers reiterated respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and national unity of Iraq. The ministers welcomed the progress resulted from the Iraqi political process, underscoring the importance of ensuring that the Iraqi people exercise their right to determine their political future freely in accordance with the Constitution of Iraq.

249. The ministers welcomed the positive results of the provinces councils' election held on 30th of January 2009 in accordance with the Constitution of Iraq.

250. The Ministers expressed their support to the Iraqi government in its efforts to achieve security, stability and prosperity for the Iraqi people and to maintain security independence, sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. The ministers reaffirmed their determination to support Iraq against any external interference in Iraq's internal affairs regardless of the excuse or pretext.

251. The Ministers took note of the agreement between Iraq and the United States of America in 17/11/2008 about the determination of the withdrawal date of the American forces from Iraq within the agreed dates and the organizing its activities within its temporal existence in Iraq to achieve the legitimate interests of Iraq.

252. The Ministers condemned all acts of terrorism in Iraq and recognized that these acts supported by organized crime are targeting the Iraqi infrastructure, service sectors and all other aspects of life, and that the most frequent victims of these crimes are the Iraqi people. The ministers deplored all acts of terror aiming at creating sectarian conflict. The ministers called upon the international community and all states especially the regional states to extend any possible assistance to the Iraqi government in its effort to defeat and eliminate terrorism.

253. The Ministers welcomed the improvement of both the security situation as well as living conditions within Iraq. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Iraqi government's efforts aimed at creating the appropriate environment conducive to the voluntary repatriation of thousands of Iraqi refugees or internally displaced. In this regard the Ministers encouraged host countries of Iraqi refugees and the concerned international organizations to facilitate their voluntary repatriation.

254. The Ministers welcomed the decisions of a number of states to reopen their diplomatic missions in Baghdad. The Ministers encouraged Member States to enhance diplomatic relations with Iraq and, where appropriate, to consider reopening their Embassies in Baghdad.

255. The Ministers reiterated their support for the rebuilding of Iraq and welcomed the endeavours of the Iraqi government in the revitalization process of the Iraqi economy. The ministers reaffirmed the right of the Iraqi people to control and manage their natural resources freely and through the duly-elected government to control Iraq's resources and utilize these towards reconstruction, rebuilding national institutions, improve the living standards of the Iraqi people and developing the national economy. The ministers called upon all states and international organizations to provide all forms of support and assistance to meet Iraq's needs.

256. The Ministers welcomed the commitment of the Paris Club to substantially reduce Iraq's foreign debts and urge the other creditors to follow suit.

257. The Ministers reiterated the importance of enhancing the Iraqi process of national dialogue and reconciliation, and of ensuring broad participation in all political processes, achieve unity, social peace, security and to put an end to sectarian violence. The ministers stressed the need to provide full support for the national reconciliation plan endorsed by H.E. Nouri Al-Maliki the prime minister of Iraq aimed at strengthening national unity and the establishment of the security.

258. The Ministers called upon all states to cooperate and coordinate their efforts in combating the illegal trade and trafficking of Iraqi antiques, and in returning the recovered art works to Iraqi museums.

259. In the frame of the regional and international efforts to support reconstruction and to ensure stability in Iraq, the Ministers welcomed the extension of UNAMI mandate according to the Iraqi request in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 1830 (2008), the international compact with Iraq launched on 3 May 2007 in Sharm al-Shaikh (Egypt).

260. The ministers expressed their support for the ongoing process of the neighbouring countries meeting on Iraq. In this regard the ministers welcomed the outcomes of the last expanded meeting of the foreign ministers held in Kuwait on 22 April 2008 and the establishment of the support mechanism and its terms of reference.

Iraq and Kuwait

261. The ministers strongly condemned the grave violations of human rights and the killing of Iraqi, Kuwaiti and other third country nationals by the former Iraqi regime, in disregard of provisions of international law and international humanitarian law. The ministers also welcomed the measures taken by the Iraqi government to try those criminals.

Southeast Asia

262. The Ministers welcomed the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter on 15 December 2008 which provides the legal and institutional framework for ASEAN to be a more rules based, effective and people centred organisation, paving the way for realising an ASEAN Community by 2015.

263. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the Cha-am Hua-Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) by ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit at Cha-am Hua-Hin, Thailand, on 28 February-1 March 2009, comprising 3 pillars, namely, Political-Security Community, Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community, all of which are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing for the purpose of ensuring durable peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region. In this context, the Ministers took note of the adoption by ASEAN Leaders of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint, which envisaged ASEAN to be a rules-based Community of shared values and norms, a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security; as well as a dynamic and outward looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world.

264. The Ministers also welcomed the accession of States outside Southeast Asia to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC).

265. The Ministers affirmed the importance of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as the main multilateral political and security forum in the region, and reiterated their support for ASEAN as the primary driving force of the ARF. The Ministers also took note of the continued relevance of the ARF in promoting and maintaining peace, security and stability in the region and its vital role in building confidence and trust amongst its participants.

266. The Ministers reiterated the call to solve all sovereignty and territorial disputes in the South China Sea by peaceful means without resorting to force and/or threat to use force, and urged all parties to exercise restraint with a view to creating a positive climate for the eventual resolution of all contentious issues. In this context, they reaffirmed their support for the principles contained in the 1992 ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea as well as the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and stressed the need for the full implementation of such principles by all concerned. They expressed their hope that all parties concerned would refrain from any actions that may undermine peace, stability, trust and confidence in the region. They further reaffirmed their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognised principles of international law. To this end, they welcomed the efforts by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China to effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea[25] as an important step to achieve a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, which would help to create a conducive environment for the maintenance of international peace and stability in the region. They further welcomed the positive contribution of the ongoing bilateral and multilateral consultations among the parties concerned at the intergovernmental level, the extensive consultations at the ASEAN-China Dialogue, the regular exchange of views in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the informal Workshops on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea and encouraged their continuance.

25 The Declaration was signed on 4 November 2002 during the ASEAN-China Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Syrian Arab Republic

267. The Ministers expressed deep concern over the imposition of unilateral sanctions against the Syrian Arab Republic by the Government of the United States, and reaffirmed that the so-called "Syria Accountability Act" is contrary to international law and a violation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. They called on the Government of the United States to declare that Act as null and void, and further called on the two countries to dialogue based on respect and mutual interest for the best of the two nations and the peoples.

268. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement condemned the act of aggression committed by forces of the United States of America in Iraq against the Syrian Arab Republic on Sunday, 26 October 2008, which targeted a civilian building in the city of Abu Kamal and resulted in the death of eight Syrian civilians and injured one person. The Ministers considered this act as a grave violation of international law and Syrian sovereignty and a violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They further expressed the solidarity of the Movement with the people and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Latin America and the Caribbean

269. The Ministers *welcomed* the positive political, economic, social changes and achievements in the region which are contributing to the wellbeing of its peoples and to the reduction of poverty, as well as to the regional solidarity, integration, and cooperation with other regions. In this regard the Ministers *emphasized* that the democratically elected governments must be supported and respected and *stressed* their rejection to any destabilization attempt against those governments and their democratic systems. The Ministers *recognized* the commitment of the states of the region to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of any state.

South American Union of Nations UNASUR

270. The Ministers *welcomed* the signature of the constitutive treaty of the South American Union of Nations UNASUR that took place in Brasilia, Brazil on 23 May 2008, as a contribution to the cultural, social, economic and political integration.

Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development

271. The Ministers welcomed the holding of the First Latin American and Caribbean summit on Integration and Development, held in Costa de Sauípe, Salvador, Bahia, Brasil, on 16 and 17 December 2008. They encouraged the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to provide follow-up to this process with concrete actions geared at fostering the integration of the region.

ALBA – TCP – PETROCARIBE

272. The Ministers welcomed and encouraged original initiatives such as the "Bolivarian Alternative for the People of Our America-People's Trade Treaty" (ALBA-TCP), PETROCARIBE and the Framework Agreement of the Single System of Regional Payments Compensation (SUCRE for its Spanish Acronym), which are promoted in this region under the principles of cooperation, complementarity covering energy, social justice; food sovereignty, monetary and economic sectors; these experiences demonstrate, inter alia, that a new international economic order is progressively emerging.

Second Summit of Arab and South American countries

273. The Ministers welcomed successful conclusion of the Second Summit of Arab and South American countries, held in Doha-Qatar on 31 March 2009 including its follow-up mechanisms.

Second Africa-South America Summit

274. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the Second Africa-South America Summit of Heads of State and Governments, which is to be held 18-19 September 2009, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with a view to strengthening friendship, solidarity and South-South cooperation between both regions. The Ministers underscored the importance of this historic Summit as the first to be held following the establishment of the Union of South American Countries (UNASUR).

Zone of Peace: Gulf of Fonseca

275. The Ministers *welcomed* the decision recently taken by the Heads of States of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua to establish a "Zone of peace, sustainable development and security in the Gulf of Fonseca", and *agreed* that this decision constitutes an important step forward to strengthen the integration and unity process of the Central American nations and peoples.

Belize and Guatemala

276. The Ministers welcomed the decisive step taken by Belize and Guatemala in signing, on 8 December 2008, a Special Agreement to submit Guatemala's territorial differendum to the International Court of Justice, subject to the approval of their citizens in national referenda, as a means of reaching a definitive, honourable and permanent solution to their long-standing dispute, and called on the international community to support both countries in this endeavour.

Cuba

277. The Ministers once again *reiterated* their call to the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the UN Charter and international law, and to the principle of neighbourliness, is causing huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. They once again *urged* strict compliance with the Resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3 and 63/7 of the UN General Assembly. They *expressed* deep concern over the widening of the extra-territorial nature of the embargo against Cuba and *rejected* the reinforcement of the measures adopted by the US government, aimed at tightening the embargo, as well as all other recent measures carried-out by the Government of the United States against the people of Cuba. They also *urged* the Government of the United States to return the territory now occupied by the Guantanamo Naval Base to Cuban sovereignty, and to put an end to aggressive radio and television transmission against Cuba. They *reiterated* that those measures constitute a violation of Cuba's sovereignty and a massive violation of the human rights of its people.

Panama

278. The Ministers recalled the firm support and solidarity offered by the Movement to the people and Government of Panama in its struggle for the recovery of the Canal and exerts effective sovereignty over all its territory. In this occasion, the Ministers conveyed to the Government of Panama their recognition for the efficient operation and administration of the Panama Canal under Panamanian control and congratulated the nation for the beginning of the construction of the third set of locks of this strategic pathway serving world trade and communications.

Venezuela

279. The Ministers *expressed* support for the Constitutional Government of President Hugo Chavez Frias, who was democratically elected and ratified by the majority of the Venezuelan people. They recognised the proven impartiality and reliability of the Electoral Constitutional Power in guaranteeing fair, transparent and trustworthy elections in December 2006. They viewed with concern the aggressive policies of the Government of the United States against Venezuela and stated the inalienable right of the people of Venezuela to determine their own form of Government and to choose their own economic, political and social system free from outside intervention, subversion, coercion, and constraint of any kind whatsoever. They welcomed the holding and results of the Constitutional Referendum held on 15 February 2009 and considered it an additional demonstration of the fairness of the democratic process being carried-out in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

280. The Ministers *expressed* their concern over the increase of the action by the Government of the United States of America, aimed at affecting the stability of Venezuela, including the recent establishment of an office to increase intelligence gathering and espionage against Venezuela and Cuba.

281. The Ministers *expressed* support for the extradition request that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela interposed to the Government of the United States for bringing to justice those

responsible for the terrorist attack on a Cubana de Aviación aircraft in October 1976, which caused the death to 73 innocent civilians. In this context, the Ministers *rejected* the protection given to individuals accused of perpetrating terrorist acts in Venezuela, in contravention of relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions related to measures to eliminate terrorism in all its forms, which impedes the efforts of the Venezuelan authorities to bring them to justice. They exhorted the government of the United States of America to comply with the request to extradite Luis Posada Carriles, indicted for charges of terrorism in Venezuela.

Guyana and Venezuela

282. The Ministers *took note* of the efforts being made by Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to identify a new Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to advance the Good Offices Process within the framework of the Geneva Agreement of 1966. The Ministers expressed the hope that a new Special Representative will be in place at the earliest possible time with a view to finding a peaceful settlement to the controversy.

Honduras

283. The Ministers *expressed* their full support to the efforts by the Government of the Republic of Honduras to put an end to the boycott imposed by transnational companies to the public international fuel bidding process that is currently taking place in that country.

Bolivia

284. The Ministers *expressed* their unwavering support and solidarity to the Constitutional Government of President Evo Morales Ayma and their firm support of the process underway in the Plurinational State of Bolivia aimed at ensuring that the entire population enjoys a real and effective participation in the country's affairs without any kind of exclusion or discrimination, as well as the exercises of full sovereignty over their natural resources for the benefit of all Bolivians. They also welcomed the results of the Revocatory Referendum held on August 10th 2008 and those of the constitutional Referendum that resulted in the approval of its new Constitution held on January 25th 2009, consolidating national unity in Bolivia and reinforcing equal rights opportunities for all Bolivians.

Ecuador

285. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the New Constitution in Ecuador by National Referendum on the 28th September 2008. The New Constitution will allow deepening and consolidating democratic processes and will inaugurate a new political, economic and social structure based on equity, justice, sustainability and public participation. The Ministers also welcomed the election on April 26th 2009 of President Rafael Correa Delgado for a term of four years.

CHAPTER III:

DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Introduction

286. The Ministers associated themselves with and *reaffirmed* all of the positions of the Group of 77 and China concerning economic and social development issues and other related issues, as contained in the outcome documents of the Second South Summit held in Doha, Qatar from 12 to 16 June 2005, and the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 and China held in New York in September 2008. Likewise, they *reaffirmed* the Movement's commitment to work towards the full implementation of the decisions and recommendations contained in those documents, and *called on* the international community, including international financial institutions as well as regional development banks, to support efforts of developing countries, toward that end.

287. The Ministers emphasized that economic and social development should remain the centrepiece of the deliberations at the UN, and that the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, should continue to be the over-arching framework of the UN. They further emphasized the need for strengthened enhanced global partnership for development based on the recognition of national leadership and ownership of development strategies for the full implementation of the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. They also stressed the need to strengthen the existing mechanisms and establish where needed, effective mechanisms to review and follow-up the implementation of the outcomes of all the major UN conferences and summits in the social, economic and related fields.

288. The Ministers expressed their concern on the multiple inter-related and mutually exacerbating current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, the volatile energy prices, the food crisis and the challenges posed by climate change, which could further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

289. The Ministers reaffirmed the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order[26] and the validity of their major principles by which the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed its determination to work urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations.

290. The Ministers *underscored* the need for the international community, in particular developed countries, to assist developing countries efforts to fully implement all internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, in particular their ongoing efforts to halve the number of people living in poverty and hunger by 2015. They further *called on* the international community to continue supporting developing countries efforts aimed at integrating the principles of sustainable development into their national development strategies and reversing the loss of environmental resources, including through the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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26 See resolution 3201 (S-VI).

291. The Ministers *stressed* that each country has the sovereign right to determine its own development priorities and strategies, and called upon the international community to categorically reject any conditionality in the provision of development assistance.

292. The Ministers insisted on the need for undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels for the full implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. They further called for the early and full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity Building and Technology Support for the developing countries.

293. The Ministers *recognized* that climate change poses serious risks and challenges in particular to developing countries, and called for urgent global action to address climate change in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. They *reaffirmed* that efforts to address climate change should promote the integration of all three components of sustainable development that is economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars, in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner.

294. The Ministers recognised that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalising world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, i.e. the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment, and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space, and *emphasized* that it is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments.

295. The Ministers expressed the need to encourage greater direct investment, including foreign direct investment, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially in the context of the economic and financial crisis, to support their development activities, in line with their national priorities. In this regard, they urged developed countries to take measures to increase investment flows, particularly foreign direct investments, to developing countries and avoid protectionist measures, which impede such flows.

296. The Ministers took note with appreciation of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and expressed profound gratitude to the State of Qatar for holding the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, from 29 November to 2 December 2008. In this regard, the Ministers highlighted and welcomed the decision adopted by the Doha Conference to hold a U.N. Conference, at the highest level, on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development.

297. *Noting* the interdependence of nations and the varying levels of Human development world-wide, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the need for a New Global Human Order aimed at reversing growing disparities between rich and poor, both among and within countries, through the promotion of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work, and social integration. In this context, they *welcomed* the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 62/213 on the role of the United Nations in promoting a new Global Human Order and in particular the request contained therein for a report by the Secretary General assessing the implications of growing inequality for development.

Current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis.

298. The Ministers expressed their deep concern at the ongoing global financial and economic crisis and its negative impact on the world economy. They also recognized that the crisis has further accentuated the deficiencies and imbalances in the global financial and economic governance systems. In this context, they urged the international community to work on a vigorous, coordinated and comprehensive global response to the crisis, particularly to minimize the negative effects on the development efforts of developing countries and to ensure that development assistance commitments are not compromised, and to undertake immediate actions and initiatives to overcome these challenges. In this regard, they recognized the central role of the United Nations.

299. The Ministers expressed the need to enhance regional and sub-regional efforts including, inter alia, through regional development banks, as part of a global coordinated efficient response to deal with the current economic and financial crisis. In this context they also noted the Chiang Mai Initiative that aims to assist ASEAN+3 countries to address liquidity problems.

300. The Ministers are convinced that the international financial and economic crisis and the resulting downturn in global economic growth severely affect in particular the economies of developing countries, inter alia, through decrease in trade and FDI flows and increased contractions and high costs of credit, thereby negatively impacting on the realization of the right to development, constraining social investment, deepening poverty and raising unemployment rates. The Ministers emphasized the need to address the crisis with the goal of promoting human development including through actions aimed at supporting sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

301. The Ministers recognized that the financial and economic crisis has exacerbated the challenges and impediments to achieving the IADGs including MDGs, especially the access of developing countries to financial resources. In this regard, the Ministers urged the developed countries to fulfil their ODA commitments in a timely and predictable manner, as has been agreed in the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits. They also underscored the need for additional financial resources to address the crisis. Failure to do so will severely jeopardize the achievement of the IADGs, including the MDGs.

302. The Ministers noted with concern that the financial and economic crisis had exacerbated the ongoing global food crisis, and also undermined the efforts of developing countries to achieve food security. They expressed their concern that this situation is eroding progress already achieved and is pushing millions of people into degrading poverty and hunger.

303. In this context, and as one of the main challenges featuring the current international situation since the 14th NAM Summit held in Havana, the Ministers underlined their deep concern with the scope and seriousness of the international financial and economic crisis affecting the world today and its severe adverse impact on development, including the realization of sustained economic growth and poverty eradication, particularly for developing countries, as well as for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and therefore the Ministers recognized the need to work collectively in order to reform the international financial and monetary architecture and economic governance structures with a view to improving the functioning of the international economic system and mitigating the impacts of the crisis on development and considered the "United Nations Conference at the highest level on the World financial and economic crisis" which was agreed on the Doha Declaration, an important opportunity to proceed forward in that regard.

304. The Ministers welcomed the call of the Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Bolivarian Alternative for the People of the Americas (ALBA), gathered in the Fifth Special Summit,

hosted in Cumaná, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, April 16-17 2009, encouraging the participation at the highest level, including at the level of Heads of State and Government, at the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development.

305. The Ministers expressed concern at the volatility in currency exchange rates and its adverse impact on international trade, economic growth and development, and emphasized the importance of examining this problem including the possibility of evolving to a more stable international monetary system.

306. The Ministers called upon all United Nations Member States to participate at the highest level in the above mentioned Conference, and stressed the need for the Conference to address thoroughly the structural causes, consequences and other relevant aspects of the world economic and financial crises, in light of General Assembly resolution 63/277, including the reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions, and the need for a transparent, open and democratic decision-making mechanism and structures, with equal participation of developing countries.

307. The Ministers welcomed the convening of a Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights, held in Geneva on 20 February 2009, and encouraged all States to work for the implementation of the resolution adopted in that session.

Africa

308. The Ministers *called on* the international community to implement its commitment to address the special needs of Africa, which is the only continent not on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and its resolve to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development by providing coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders within that framework, including by mobilizing internal and external financial resources and facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions; to support the African commitment to ensure that by 2015 all children have access to complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality, as well as to basic health care; to support the building of an international infrastructure consortium involving the African Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, with the New Partnership for Africa's Development as the main framework, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa.

309. The Ministers expressed their concern over the development and scope of the current financial and economic crisis on Africa which continues to slow down economic growth, worsen balance of payment situation and turn around the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and in this regard, welcomed the Addis Ababa Declarations on the International Financial Crisis adopted at the 12th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government on 3rd of February 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

310. In this context, the Ministers supported and encouraged national and regional initiatives in the field of human development, such as the first African Conference on Human Development which was held in Rabat on April 2007. This Conference aimed at combating poverty and vulnerability and enhancing the social and living standards of the most disadvantaged African Nations within the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The follow-up of this first Conference will be held in Gabon, in 2009.

311. The Ministers further called for a comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, including, inter alia, cancellation or restructuring for heavily indebted African countries not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative that have

unsustainable debt burdens; to make efforts to fully integrate African countries in the international trading system, including through targeted trade capacity-building programmes; to support the efforts of commodity-dependent African countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors and decide to work towards market-based arrangements with the participation of the private sector for commodity price-risk management; to supplement the efforts of African countries, individually and collectively, to increase agricultural productivity, in a sustainable way, as set out in the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as part of an African "Green Revolution"; as recommended by African Ministers at the High Level Meeting on "African Agriculture in the 21st Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a sustainable Green Revolution", held in Windhoek from 9 to 10 February 2009.

312. The Ministers reaffirmed the political declaration on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward", adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 22 September 2008. They stressed their commitment to provide and strengthen support to the special needs of Africa and stress that eradicating poverty, particularly in Africa, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. They underlined the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based economic growth, which is pivotal to bringing Africa into the mainstream of the global economy. They recalled the commitment of all States to establish a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to the development of Africa as contained in the political declaration on "Africa's development needs" and stressed that all commitments to and by Africa should be effectively implemented and given appropriate follow-up by the international community and Africa itself. They underscored the urgency of addressing the special needs of Africa based on a partnership among equals.

313. The Ministers called for the full implementation as a matter of urgency of the "Political Declaration on Africa's Development needs" adopted by GA resolution 63/1 of 22 September 2008, as reaffirmed by the Doha Declaration on financing for development, and of all commitments made to Africa by the international community. The Ministers recalled that the pledge made by the G.8 at Gleneagles to double the Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards Africa from US $ 25 billion to US $ 50 billion by 2010 has yet to be materialized and called for its fulfilment.

314. The Ministers stressed the need to strengthen cooperation with African countries through North-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and an enhanced South/South partnership, especially in agriculture, education, health and environment as well as the exchange of experiences and know-how in all these sectors.

315. The Ministers supported the ongoing efforts by the African countries to achieve the process of Integration of NEPAD into the Structures and Processes of the African Union on the basis of the 13-points conclusion of Algiers (Algeria) NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementing Committee (HSGIC), Brainstorming Summit, of march 2007, and the outcomes of the Dakar (Senegal) NEPAD Review Summit of April 2008.

Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States

316. The Ministers recalled the special needs of the least developed countries (LDCs), the small island developing states (SIDS), and the landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries, and *reaffirmed* the need for continued support and assistance for their endeavours, particularly in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade

2001-2010, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, and the Almaty Programme of Action.

317. The Ministers *welcomed* the decision adopted during the 63rd Session of the General Assembly to hold the 4th United Nations Conference on LDC's and called all members of the United Nations to participate in that Conference at a high level, as well as all other United Nations organizations, funds and programmes and specialized agencies to contribute to the outcome of the 4th Conference.

318. The Ministers also recalled the results of the first Summit Meeting of LLDCs on 14 September 2006 in Havana and *emphasized* the need for greater cooperation of the international community towards the full implementation of the declaration of the Ministers of Land-locked Developing Countries.

319. The Ministers *welcomed* the Ulaanbaatar Declaration adopted at the Meeting of Trade Ministers of landlocked developing countries, held in Ulaanbaatar on 28 and 29 August 2007, the outcome documents of the thematic meeting on transit transport infrastructure development, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 18-20 June 2007, and the thematic meeting on international trade and trade facilitation, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 30-31 August 2007 and the adoption of the UNGA resolution 62/204 and the communiqué of ministerial meeting of Landlocked developing countries in New York, on 28 September 2007.

320. The Ministers welcomed the Declaration of the high-level meeting on mid-term review of the Almaty Program of Action held on 2 and 3 October 2008 in New York which called upon the international community to take effective measures to accelerate the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

321. The Ministers also welcomed the proposal to set up in Ulaanbaatar an international think tank to enhance the analytical capability of landlocked developing countries needed to maximize the efficiency of the coordinated efforts for the effective implementation of the internationally agreed provisions, particularly the Almaty Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

322. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to continue to pay special attention to the situation of developing countries emerging from conflict, in particular LDCs, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, their political, social and economic infrastructures and to assist them in achieving their development objectives.

Food Security

323. The Ministers *expressed* their deep concern at the high volatility in global food prices, including in basic food commodities, due to, inter alia, structural and systemic problems. The resulting and ongoing food crisis pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger, as well as to the efforts by developing countries to attain food security and achieve the objectives of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015 and other development goals. The multiple and complex causes of this crisis require a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained response by the international community. The Ministers also *emphasized* the need for global mechanisms to serve as an early warning system on food security to prevent the recurrence of food crises.

324. The Ministers *emphasized* that achieving food security would require strengthening and revitalizing the agriculture sector in developing countries, including through the empowerment of small and medium scale farmers, technical assistance, access to and transfer of technology, capacity building and exchange of knowledge and experience. They also emphasized that the implementation of and compliance with the provisions of the UNCCD, as well as the Ten Year

Strategic Plan as a basis for our collective efforts to combat desertification and land degradation to addressing food security.

325. The Ministers *underscored* that subsidies and other market distortions by developed countries have severely harmed the agricultural sector in developing countries, thereby limiting the ability of this key sector to contribute meaningfully to poverty eradication and sustained economic growth, food security and rural development. The Ministers, therefore, called for the immediate elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures by developed countries. They *urged* the developed countries to demonstrate the necessary flexibility and political will to address meaningfully these key concerns of developing countries at the Doha Round of Trade Negotiations.

326. The Ministers also called for short-term actions, including humanitarian assistance for ensuring the implementation of effective social safety nets. Short-term actions must include, inter alia, emergency aid measures to enhance capacity and effective delivery of food aid and ensure greater financial support to developing countries, particularly for food purchases.

327. The Ministers, therefore, called upon the Food and Agriculture Organization –FAO- in collaboration with relevant UN entities to continue addressing global and regional food security, in particular, through the full and timely implementation and operationalization of short term responses.

328. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. They *reiterated* the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies in their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. They *noted* regional initiatives in this regard, including the holding of the Presidential Summit in Managua, Nicaragua on Food Security and Sovereignty on 7 May 2008, as well as the Declaration taken at the 11th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 30 June to 1 July 2008. They reiterated their support to the operationalisation of the World Solidarity Fund, and called for effective mobilization of necessary financial resources required in order to enable the Fund to start its activities, in accordance with GA resolution 57/265.

329. The Ministers also *reiterated* that food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure. They *reaffirmed* the importance of international cooperation and solidarity as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures that endanger food security and are not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.

330. *Recognizing* the severity and urgency of the global food crisis, the Ministers *underscored* the need for the United Nations, with its universal membership, to play a leading role in addressing the crisis. They *welcomed* the holding of the FAO High-Level Conference on 'World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy' in Rome from June 3-5, 2008 They also *noted* the holding of the High-Level meeting on Food Security for All in Madrid on 26 and 27 January 2009, as well as the initiative of the Secretary General of the United Nations to establish a High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis, and *called on* the Task Force to intensively engage with the General Assembly and the ECOSOC and relevant international organizations. They also welcomed all initiatives that aim to deal with the global food crisis, including the call to establish a dialogue between producers and consumers of food.

331. The Ministers welcomed the convening at the initiative of NAM of a Special Session of the Human Rights Council on "The negative impact on the realization of the right to food of the worsening of the world food crisis, caused inter alia by the soaring food prices" held in Geneva on 22 may 2008 and urged all Member States to remain seized of the implementation of the resolution adopted in that Session as well as other UN resolutions related to this matter.

332. The Ministers welcomed the resolution of the General Assembly 63/235 titled "Agriculture development and food security" and in this regard emphasized the need to adequately and urgently address agricultural development and food security in the context of national and international development policies.

333. The Ministers welcomed FAO proposal of organizing a World Summit on Food Security, in November 2009 in Rome, on the occasion of the 36th session of the Conference of the FAO.

Middle Income Developing Countries

334. The Ministers recognised the important role that Middle-Income Developing Countries play in the promotion of global economic growth and development. However, they still face significant development challenges, especially in the area of poverty eradication. In this regard, the Ministers *stressed* the need for enhanced support by the United Nations System, the international financial institutions and all other stakeholders, for their development efforts, in order to address those challenges, including by working in competent multilateral and international fora and also through bilateral arrangements on measures to enhance international cooperation with MICs and help them meet, inter alia, their financial technical and technological development requirements.

335. The Ministers recalled the international Conferences on Development Cooperation with Middle Income Countries held in March 2007 in Madrid, Spain, in October 2007 in San Salvador, El Salvador, and in August 2008 in Windhoek, Namibia, and in this regard the Ministers welcomed the adoption of GA resolution 63/223 on "Development Cooperation with Middle Income Countries". The Ministers emphasized the need for the UN to conduct a comprehensive review of existing practices of the international cooperation system, including the UN Funds, programmes and agencies, the international financial institutions and other international organization, including the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, on their development cooperation with middle income countries, with a view to achieving more effective development cooperation and fostering international support for the development of these countries.

336. The Ministers further recognized that low-income developing countries could also play an important role in the promotion of world economic growth, although they face important development challenges and special needs in the sphere of trade facilitation and the promotion of direct foreign investment flow, resist the adverse impacts of climate change and the eradication of poverty and require the urgent attention of the international community.

Trade

337. The Ministers expressed serious concern that the current global financial and economic crisis has begun to undermine the global trade through, inter alia, rising protectionism, in particular, in developed countries with serious adverse impact on the exports of developing countries. They also expressed their outmost concern at the lack of substantial progress on the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization and considered it a serious setback for the Doha Round, and called upon the developed countries to demonstrate the flexibility and political will necessary for breaking the current impasse in the negotiations, and also called upon all members of the World Trade Organization to adhere to the development mandate of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, which places development at the heart of the multilateral trading system.

338. The Ministers also *reiterated* the importance of fully responding to the concerns raised by developing countries in paragraph 8 of the Doha Plan of Action, in particular, regarding the realisation of all areas of the Doha Work Programme, especially in Agriculture, Non-Agriculture Market Access, Services, Trade Related Intellectual Property System (TRIPS), Rules as well as operational and meaningful special and differential treatment for developing countries. They also called for action to accelerate the work on the development related mandate concerning the TRIPS Agreement and the implementation related issues in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, especially on the issues of making intellectual property rules of TRIPS supportive of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as trade-related aspects of the TRIPS and Public Health.

339. The Ministers *stressed* that the use of agricultural subsidies by developed countries impedes the promotion of agricultural production in developing countries and *urged* the developed countries to eliminate all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures.

340. The Ministers *invited* donors and beneficiary countries to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on the Aid for Trade Initiative established by the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, which aims to support developing and least developed countries in building their supply and export capacities, including infrastructure and institutions development, and the need to increase their exports, and *stressed* in this regard the urgent need for its effective operationalization with sufficient additional, non-conditional and predictable funding.

341. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of facilitating the accession of all developing countries, in particular the LDCs, as well as countries with economies in transition, that apply for membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), consistent with its criteria and taking into account their development level, bearing in mind paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 55/182 and subsequent developments, and called for the effective and faithful application of the WTO guidelines on accession by the LDCs.

342. The Ministers emphasized that accession process of developing countries to WTO should be accelerated without political impediments and in an expeditious and transparent manner.

343. The Ministers *underscored* the important role of UNCTAD as the focal point within the UN system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, should conduct research into an analysis of macroeconomic policies, trade, investment, finance, debt, poverty, international migration and emerging issues, and their interdependence, as referred to in the Accra Accord adopted in the 12th Conference of UNCTAD. Such research should be used to help developing countries to meet their development goals including poverty eradication to improve the welfare of their citizens and to address the opportunities and challenges created by globalization. They further *reiterated* the need to continue the operationalization of UNCTAD's relevant functions in the areas of globalization, policy space and corporate responsibility and the reinvigoration of its intergovernmental machinery.

344. The Ministers took note of the UNCTAD-UNDP Creative Economy Report 2008 that provides empirical evidence and in-depth analysis showing that the creative industries, linking economic, cultural, technological and social aspects of development at both the macro and micro levels, are among the most dynamic emerging sectors in world trade that could offer to developing countries new opportunities in the world economy. The Ministers therefore encouraged UNCTAD to develop a technical assistance programme in creative economy in order to enhance and strengthen developing countries capacity to compete in these sectors.

345. The Ministers *agreed* to work towards a full implementation of the recommendations of the XII session of the UNCTAD's ministerial conference, held in Accra, Ghana from 20 to 25 April 2008.

346. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures:

346.1 Continue the coordination and cooperation between the G-77 and NAM, within their respective mandates, to strengthen the role of UNCTAD as the UN body in charge of an integrated treatment of trade, development and related matters in the field of finances, technology, investment and sustainable development;

346.2 Continue promoting the rejection of and the adoption of concrete actions against the enforcement of unilateral coercive economic measures at the several multilateral fora where NAM and G-77 are involved.

South-South Cooperation

347. Recognising the increasing importance of South-South Cooperation and the changing context of North-South interdependence and terms of engagement, the Ministers called for a more energetic effort to deepen and enhance South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that such cooperation is not a substitute to North-South cooperation.

348. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitments to fully implement the Havana Programme of Action, the Marrakech Plan of Implementation of South-South cooperation and the Doha Plan of Action that taken together represent a comprehensive framework for intensified cooperation among developing countries.

349. The Ministers *reiterated* their support for the upcoming high-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, pursuant to General Assembly Resolutions 62/209 and 63/233 to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22-24 June 2009, and called for active participation in this conference. In this regard, they expressed appreciation to the Government of Kenya and welcomed the efforts of the UN High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation. The Ministers expressed their support for the principles on which South-South Cooperation is based, which were adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 and China, at their annual meeting in New York on 26 September 2008.

350. The Ministers *welcomed* the launching of the Development Platform of the South and the approval of the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance during the 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordinating Committee on ECDC in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire on June 13, 2008.

351. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the role of South-South cooperation in the overall context of multilateralism, as a continuing process vital to confront the challenges faced by the South and as valuable contribution to development, and the need to further strengthen it, including through enhancing the capacities of the institutions and the arrangements that promote such cooperation.

352. The Ministers are committed to support and promote mechanisms enhancing intra/interregional trade among developing countries.

353. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the holding in June 2008 in Marrakech, Morocco, of the Conference of African-South American Trade Ministers within the framework of South America-Africa bi-regional process, the second Summit of which will take place during 2009, in Caracas, Venezuela.

354. The Ministers emphasized the importance of further strengthening coordination and cooperation at the regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels, particularly in the context of the negative impact of the current financial and economic crisis.

355. The Ministers *reiterated* their invitation to all the parties involved to conclude the Third Round of the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) as early as possible and *encouraged* other developing countries to consider participating in the GSTP.

356. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to further reinforce the following measures, among others:

356.1 *Strengthen* national capacities in order to enhance the individual and collective resilience of Non-Aligned Countries, which could be achieved particularly through expanding, deepening and enriching South-South cooperation in all areas of relations among them, including through undertaking concrete projects and programmes, pooling of resources, and tapping the contributions of eminent personalities and institutions of the South. In this regard, the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance established by the Second South Summit of the Group of 77 and China could greatly contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of South-South cooperation;

356.2 *Encourage* Member States to elaborate South-South cooperation arrangements, including sectoral cooperation arrangements, and other partnerships that promote South-South cooperation.

356.3 *Promote* on a voluntary basis trade agreements among developing countries as a tool for strengthening South-South economic cooperation;

356.4 *Promote and strengthen* regional and sub-regional integration through groupings and other arrangements on the basis of mutual benefit, complementarities and solidarity among developing countries with a view to facilitating and accelerating the economic growth and development of their economies;

356.5 *Encourage* the NAM Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC),[27] consistent with its terms of reference, to continue to organize training and capacity building programs for Non-Aligned Countries, and in this regard, *further encourage* member states of NAM to provide necessary assistance on a voluntary basis to the Centre towards achieving its established goals and objectives;

356.6 *Strengthen* the capability of developing countries to evaluate international economic issues, through the establishment of a NAM network of coordination and cooperation between academic and specialized centres of research and economic studies;

356.7 *Reaffirm* the central role of the South Centre as the think tank of the countries of the South, *called* upon the members of the Movement to support the Centre and *requested* the South Centre to establish South-South networks among relevant institutions to facilitate the exchange of programmes, academia, etc.;

356.8 *Encourage* the NAM Business Forum on South-South Cooperation, consistent with its terms of reference, to continue with its initiatives to enhance South-South trade and business relations. In this context, they *welcomed* the success of the Second NAM Business Forum and the General Meeting of the NAM Business Council for South-South Cooperation, held in Havana, Cuba, on November 2007;

27 Information concerning the NAM Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, initiated by Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam, and located in Jakarta, Indonesia, can be obtained from its website at www.csstc.org.

356.9 *Encourage* UN Member States to support international development funds aimed at financing the implementation of South-South Cooperation projects, such as the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund.

357. The Ministers *noted* the adoption of the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation by the UNDP Executive Board and *encouraged* developed countries to support UNDP and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in fully implementing the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation, in support of national development priorities.

358. The Ministers *welcomed* the cooperation initiatives and the substantial financial contributions made by some NAM countries, including inter alia OPEC countries based on solidarity and principles of friendship among states, which are conducive to the realization of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development, as well as initiatives for scientific and research programs on energy, environment and climate change, as decided at the OPEC Summit in Riyadh in November 2007. In this regard, they *encouraged* member states to consider supporting and engaging in those mechanisms of cooperation or other relevant regional or sub-regional arrangements of a cooperative nature.

359. The Ministers also welcomed regional initiatives of South-South cooperation by some NAM members in the field of sustainable development and in this regard, they took note, inter alia, of the Mesoamerica Project on Integration and Development.

360. The Ministers also took note of some regional cooperation initiatives in the financial and economic fields, such as those undertaken by some countries of the Latin American region, like the Bank of the South, as well as initiatives of ALBA countries such as the Bank of the ALBA, the Common Reserve Fund, the Common Account Unit, and the use of the SUCRE as their currency unit.

International Migration and Development

361. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the responsibility of Governments to safeguard and protect the rights of migrants against illegal or violent acts; in particular acts of incitement to ethnic, racial and religious discrimination and crimes perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivation by individuals or groups, and *urged* them to reinforce measures in this regard.

362. The Ministers agreed to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their immigration status, especially those of women and children, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all relevant international instruments to which they are party. They also noted the ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Migrant Workers as a positive step in safeguarding the fundamental rights and dignity of migrant workers.

363. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants.

364. The Ministers recognised that trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants continue to pose a serious challenge to humanity and require concerted international response, and *urged* to that end, all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims, in particular women and children subjected to forced labour, or sexual or commercial exploitation, violence and sexual abuse.

365. The Ministers recognized that effective action to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air requires a comprehensive approach, at the national, regional and international levels, and to that end, urged all States to adopt effective measures, inter alia, protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of smuggled migrants, especially women and children, in accordance with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and national laws.

366. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Bali process organized by the government of Indonesia held in Bali, 14-15 April 2009, to invigorate the regional consultative process on people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes, that further promoted dialogue and cooperation amongst its participating states, encompassing sending, transit and destination countries.

367. The Ministers recognized the implications of the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education, and semi-skilled persons, on the development efforts of developing countries.

368. The Ministers took note of the first Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Brussels on 9-11 July 2007, which focused on the central theme of "Migration and socio-economic development" and of the Second Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held Manila from 27 to 30 November, 2008 which focused on the central theme of "Protection and Empowerment of Migrants for Development", in recognition of the importance of this issue. They recognized that the exchange of expertise, consultation and closer cooperation between the GFMD and the United Nations system could have a positive impact.

369. The Ministers welcomed the offer of the Government of Greece to host the Third Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Athens during November 2009. The Global Forum meetings have an important role to play in bringing all the stakeholders together in an attempt to harness the full developmental benefits of international migration.

370. The Ministers, bearing in mind the relationship between international migration, human rights and development, also reiterated the importance of the Third Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which will be held in Athens, Greece, the 4th and 5th of November 2009.

371. The Ministers *encouraged* efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, particularly by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration. In this regard, the Ministers requested all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, so as to foster a secure, regular and orderly process of migration.

372. The Ministers *noted* the results of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006 in New York, held for purpose of discussing the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, which *recognized* the relationship between international migration, development and human rights. In this context, the Ministers *welcomed* the decision of the General Assembly to hold a one-day informal thematic debate on 2011 on international migration and development and the new High-level Dialogue on International Migration in 2013.

373. The Ministers, *recognizing* the critical linkages between international migration and development, *reiterated* the importance of effective initiatives to promote safe migration and facilitate free movement of labour. In this context, they *emphasized* that the Doha development round should conclude with a comprehensive solution to the concerns *expressed* by developing countries, taking into account their interests and objectives regarding the positive impacts of labour migration both in sending and receiving states.

374. The Ministers *acknowledged that* migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the countries of origin, transit and destination, and recognized the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development.

375. The Ministers *took note* of the initiatives undertaken by Member States, relevant regional and international inter-governmental organisations at the regional and international levels to promote dialogue and cooperation on international migration and development, including their contribution to comprehensively address international migration.

376. The Ministers *emphasized* the need for countries of destination of migrants to adopt policies to reduce the cost of transferring migrants' remittances to developing countries without any bias or discrimination.

377. The Ministers underlined that remittances cannot be considered as a substitute for foreign direct investment, ODA, debt relief or other public sources of finance for development. They are typically wages transferred to families, mainly to meet part of the needs of the recipient households. A large portion of migrants' incomes is spent in destination countries of migrants and constitutes an important stimulus to domestic demand in the economies of destination countries of migrants. Furthermore, the disposal of remittances and deployment thereof is an individual choice.

378. The Ministers further *underscored* the need for the international community to address the negative impact the migration of highly skilled personnel and those with advanced education from many developing countries has on the development efforts of their country of origin.

379. The Ministers *invited* all states that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

380. The Ministers called upon all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and sub-regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, in a more coherent way, within the broader context of the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Water

381. The Ministers *stressed* the need to assist developing countries in their efforts to prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans as part of their national development strategies and to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in accordance with the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including halving by 2015 of the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and who do not have access to basic sanitation.

382. The Ministers *stressed* the need to intensify water pollution prevention to reduce health hazards and protect ecosystems by introducing technologies for affordable sanitation and industrial and domestic wastewater treatment, by mitigating the effects of groundwater contamination and by establishing, at the national level, monitoring systems and effective legal frameworks.

383. The Ministers recalled what was agreed by the 13th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2005 and the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in November 2002, that recognised the importance of water as a vital and finite natural resource, which has an economic, social and environmental function, and acknowledged the right to water for all.

384. The Ministers emphasized the need to improve water resource management and scientific understanding of the water cycle through cooperation in joint observation and research, and for this purpose, *reiterated* the need to encourage and promote knowledge-sharing and provide capacity-building and the transfer of technology, as mutually agreed, including remote-sensing and satellite technologies, particularly to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

385. The Ministers welcomed the holding of the first Ministerial Forum on Water of the Group of 77 held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 23-25 February 2009, and noted the Muscat Declaration on Water adopted by the meeting.

Biological Diversity

386. The Ministers recognized the importance of Strengthening the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the establishment of a fair and just international regime on access and benefit sharing that recognizes the rights of countries of origin of the biological resources and the equitable distribution of benefits in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related international instruments.

387. The Ministers emphasized the need for early finalization and adoption of an international regime on Access and Benefit Sharing by 2010 to facilitate the full implementation of all the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to, inter alia, enabling developing countries, which are the primary repository of biodiversity, to benefit fairly and equitably from the use of their genetic resources.

388. The Ministers called upon the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to conserve and manage their forests on a sustainable basis, through international financial mechanisms, as well as through technical assistance, capacity building and transfer of technology, and in this regard stressed the need to create a global fund on forests.

389. The Ministers took note with appreciation of a national initiative undertaken by Ecuador titled "Yasuni-ITT Initiative", which aims inter alia to explore and develop alternative sources of income, reduce the exploitation of natural resources and enhance conservation of biological diversity.

The Dead Sea

390. The Ministers once again *expressed* concern over the continuous deterioration and degradation of the unique ecosystem of the Dead Sea and *emphasized* the importance of working progressively towards reversing this environmental catastrophe. They drew attention of the international community to the need for international action to protect the Dead Sea and prevent any further environmental degradation of its ecosystem through concessional grants.

The Caribbean Sea

391. The Ministers *reiterated* their concern over the continued shipment of hazardous wastes through the waters of the Caribbean Sea. In recognition of the cooperative efforts of Caribbean States to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development of the oceans and seas, they *welcomed* resolution 63/214 of the United

Nations General Assembly, and *stressed* the importance to continue working on the implementation of the declaration of Mauritius (January 2005). In this regard, they *expressed* support for the regional initiatives aimed at having the Caribbean Sea declared a "special area", and they pledged their support to assist in promoting the sustainable development of this group of especially vulnerable countries, for which international cooperation continues to be an essential factor, and drew the attention of the international community to the need for international action for the Caribbean Sea to be considered as a special area within the context of sustainable development.

Lake Chad and the River Niger

392. The Ministers *expressed* serious concern over the phenomenal drying-up of Lake Chad and the shrinking of the River Niger, largely due to climate change and rapidly growing population, thereby posing serious danger to biodiversity, as well as threatening food security and the livelihood of the peoples living within the vicinities of the Lake and the River in the West and Central African sub-Regions. They *acknowledged* the concerted efforts by the affected countries to reverse the trend and redress the challenges posed, and therefore *called on* the international community and development partners to intensify their support, through concrete financial and technical assistance, for the collaborative frameworks of action by the affected countries, aimed at rescuing Lake Chad and River Niger.

Energy

393. The Ministers emphasized the need to diversify energy supply by developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, including fossil fuel technologies and renewable energy technologies, hydro included, and their transfer to developing countries on concessional terms as mutually agreed. With a sense of urgency, substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply, recognizing the role of national initiatives and priorities and voluntary targets, where they exist, and ensuring that energy policies are supportive to developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty, and regularly evaluate available data to review progress to this end.

394. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, new and renewable energy technologies as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms. The Ministers welcomed the thematic debate of the General Assembly on energy efficiency and energy conservation, new and renewable sources of energy, to be held on 28 May 2009. The Ministers called for effective international measures to develop, disseminate and deploy such technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

395. The Ministers took note with appreciation of the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and encouraged Member States of NAM who have not yet done so to consider joining IRENA and support hosting its seat in a developing country. In this regard, they welcomed the proposal of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to host the headquarters of IRENA in Abu Dhabi and pledged to support the UAE's proposal to the fullest extent possible, which will be decided at the forthcoming Conference of IRENA to be held in Egypt in June 2009.

396. The Ministers *noted* the challenges to development that exist for a number of member states of the Movement in relation to the international oil market. They also *took note* of the various and

varied complex market destabilizing factors in the oil sector. In this context, they *supported* efforts to improve the functioning, transparency and information about energy markets with respect to both supply and demand, with the aim of achieving greater stability and predictability in the interest of both oil producing and consuming states. They *agreed* to enhance cooperation with a view to improving access to energy including alternative sources of energy by developing countries. They *underscored* the need for increased North-South collaboration as well as continued South-South Cooperation as part of a long-term strategy towards sustainable development. They also *underscored* the sovereign right of States over the management of their energy resources.

Climate Change

397. The Ministers took note of the outcomes of the 14th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Poznan in December 2008.

398. The Ministers expressed their disappointment at the very slow progress of the implementation of the Bali Action Plan, and reaffirmed the need to reach an agreed outcome at the 15th session of the UNFCCC COP in Copenhagen, in line with the Bali Action Plan, that would enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC through long term cooperative action now, up to and beyond 2010, in accordance with the provisions of the principles of the Convention, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

399. The Ministers reaffirmed the fundamental principle that developed countries shall take the lead in combating climate change, and expressed their serious concern at the very slow progress of the AWG-KP, and re-emphasised the urgent need for the establishment of quantified emission reduction commitments for the 2nd and subsequent commitment periods under the Kyoto Protocol.

400. They also reaffirmed that urgent actions were needed to support adaptation measures undertaken by developing countries, and called upon the international community to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable developing countries, in accordance with the criteria set in the UNFCCC, including the Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and African countries, and to provide the necessary support for these countries through, inter alia, new and additional financing that is grant-based, stable and predictable.

401. The Ministers urged the international community to assist developing countries to address the adverse impact of climate change, particularly through new, additional, grant-based and predictable financial resources, capacity building, and access to and transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms. The Ministers reaffirmed that developed countries' commitments to provide developing countries with financing and the transfer of technology for climate change should be carried out under the UNFCCC and its Conference of the parties.

402. The Ministers underscored the urgency to address the threat and sustainable development challenges posed by climate change, and reiterated the need for all States to work expeditiously to reach an agreed outcome at the 15th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

403. The Ministers took note of the offer by Peru to host the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16), to be held in 2010.

404. The Ministers welcomed the holding of the "African Conference of Ministers in Charge of Environment on Climate Change- for post 2012", held in Algiers November 19-20, 2008, with the

objectives of framing an African common position to enable the region to effectively participate in the UNFCCC negotiations.

Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms[28]

405. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning human rights and fundamental freedoms, as follows:

405.1 The Ministers *reaffirmed* the significant importance the Movement attaches to the promotion and protection of human rights and commitment to fulfil obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of all universally *recognized* human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the UN Charter, other instruments relating to human rights, as appropriate, and international law. They *further reaffirmed* that all human rights, in particular the right to development, are universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that human rights issues must be addressed within the global context through a constructive, dialogue-based approach, in a fair and equal manner, with objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, impartiality, non-selectivity and transparency as the guiding principles, taking into account the political, historical, social, religious and cultural particularities of each country. In this regard, they *reiterated* the Movement's dismay and unequivocal condemnation of gross and systematic violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and situations that constitute serious obstacles to their full enjoyment, as well as violent acts and activities that infringe upon their full enjoyment;

405.2 The Ministers also *reaffirmed* their opposition to all unilateral coercive measures, including those measures used as tools for political or economic pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries. They *reaffirmed* that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development. The Ministers further *expressed* their concern at the continued imposition of such measures which hinder the well being of population of the affected countries and that create obstacles to the full realization of their human rights;

405.3 The Ministers further *reaffirm* that, bearing in mind the UN Charter, economic and financial sanctions always have a negative impact on the rights *recognized* in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in particular the realization of the right to development. They often cause significant disruption in the distribution of food, pharmaceuticals and sanitation supplies, jeopardize the quality of food and the availability of clean drinking water, severely interfere with the functioning of basic health and education systems, and undermine the right to work.

405.4 The Ministers *expressed concern* that defamation of religions is being wrongly justified on the ground of the right to freedom of expression, neglecting the restrictions clearly articulated in the relevant human rights instruments including paragraph 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as paragraph 3 of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including in this regard the relevant recommendations of the treaty bodies, and *stressed* the need for all States to continue international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilisations, cultures and religions, and *emphasizing* that States, regional organisations,

28 This section should be read in conjunction with the section on Democracy under Chapter I of the document.

non-governmental Organisations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion and belief. They *reaffirmed* the obligation of all States Parties to the Covenant under article 20 which prohibits the advocacy of racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. They also *welcomed* the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the Right to freedom of opinion and expression as revised by the HRC resolution 7/36;

405.5 The Ministers *affirmed* that while it is necessary to harmonise guidelines on reporting procedure of human rights treaty bodies, greater efforts should be made to ensure that their work would be more effective, objective, transparent and accountable, as well as to ensure a more balanced membership therein, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation, gender balance, as well as ensuring that members nominated to serve with the treaty bodies will serve in their personal capacity, of high moral character, *acknowledged* impartiality, and possess competence in the field of human rights;

405.6 The Ministers *expressed concern* at the non-representation and under-representation of Non-Aligned Countries in the staffing of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), bearing in mind the fundamental importance of the need to adhere to the principle of equitable geographical distribution;

405.7 They *reaffirmed* that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should discharge his (her) duties in compliance with the mandate established under the UNGA Resolution 48/141, including reporting annually to the General Assembly, a universal organ of the United Nations;

405.8 The Ministers *re-emphasized* that the exploitation and the use of human rights as an instrument for political purposes, including selective targeting of individual Countries for extraneous considerations, which is contrary to the Founding Principles of the Movement and the UN Charter, should be prohibited. They *urged* that, in the discussion on human rights, adequate attention be given to the issues of poverty, underdevelopment, marginalisation, instability and foreign occupation that engender social and economic exclusion and violation of human dignity and human rights, which cannot be divorced from any meaningful discussion relating to human rights;

405.9 The Ministers *reaffirmed* that democracy and good governance at the national and international levels, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Adoption, for any cause or consideration, of coercive unilateral measures, rules and policies against the developing countries constitute flagrant violations of the basic rights of their populations. It is essential for States to promote efforts to combat extreme poverty and hunger (MDGs 1) as well as foster participation by the poorest members of society in decision-making processes;

405.10 The Ministers *reaffirmed* that hunger constitutes a violation of human dignity and called for urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination. They *also reaffirmed* the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food consistent with the right to food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities. The Ministers recognized the importance of food security for the realization of the right to food for all;

405.11 The Ministers *renewed* their concern at the gross violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to life and the right to development, resulting from terrorist acts including those perpetrated by foreign occupying powers in territories

under foreign occupation, and *reiterated* their condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions;

405.12 The Ministers *underlined* their growing concern and dismay at the flagrant disregard for life and the accompanying wanton destruction of property, as recently evidenced in Occupied Palestinian Territory and other occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan and Lebanon. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, whereby it decided to include the "Human Rights Situation in Occupied Palestinian Territory and other occupied Arab territories" as a permanent agenda item in the Council;

405.13 The Ministers also *welcomed* the recent resolutions adopted at the Special session of the Human Rights Council and the Resumed Tenth Emergency Special session of the General Assembly on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory particularly in the Gaza Strip.

405.14 The Ministers *reaffirmed* the right of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation to struggle for national liberation and self-determination;

405.15 The Ministers *reiterated* the need for efforts to further strengthen and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and for the establishment of democratic institutions and sound economic policies responsive to the needs of the people. In this context, they *reiterated* the need for the core principles, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international co-operation, including partnership and commitments in the international financial, monetary and trading systems, and full and effective participation of developing countries in decision-making and norm setting; and

405.16 The Ministers *welcomed* the recent election of women at the highest political level and *underlined* the importance of promoting equal participation of women in the political systems of NAM Members, in accordance with Millennium Development Goal No. 3 "Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women";

405.17 The Ministers *welcomed* the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, on 3 May 2008 and *expressed* their commitment to promote the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis for persons with disabilities. The Ministers *invited* all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention and its Optional Protocol;

405.18 The Ministers *expressed* deep concern over the "Common Standards and Procedures for returning illegally-staying Third-Country Nationals", known as the return directive, adopted by the European Parliament on June 18, 2008. They *emphasized* the view that this Directive constitutes a serious violation of relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant ILO conventions. They also *underscored* the discriminatory nature of this Directive, which has the effect of criminalizing migration and exacerbating social tensions, racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and entail mistreatment of migrants and their families;

405.19 The Ministers *underscored* the need for all States to address the issue of international migration through a cooperative dialogue on an equal footing, and in this regard, *strongly urged* the European Union and its member States to refrain from taking any type of measures that stigmatize certain groups or individuals, including third-country nationals and their families and *invite* these States to consider signing and ratifying the

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

406. The Ministers *recognized* the importance of Human Rights Learning and Education for the promotion and protection of human rights, and in this regard, welcomed the proclamation by the General Assembly of the year commencing on 10 December 2008 as the International Year of Human Rights Learning. They also *welcomed* the adoption by consensus of HRC resolution 6/10, which launched the process of the elaboration of a United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

407. The Ministers welcomed the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights by the NAM Members through different activities and initiatives at the national, regional and international levels. They also welcomed the declaration adopted by the General Assembly during the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights on December 10, 2008.

408. The Ministers took note with appreciation of the adoption of the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by the General Assembly, as a positive and important step towards realizing equal treatment of all human rights.

409. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures and initiatives, among others:

409.1 *Promote and protect* all universally *recognized* human rights and fundamental freedoms for all peoples, in particular the right to development, and to provide an effective framework thereof including remedies to redress grievances on or violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the relevant Founding Principles of the Movement, the UN Charter and international human rights instruments, consistent with the obligations of States regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems;

409.2 To consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights in order to allow its entry into force;

409.3 *Promote* the democratisation of the system of international governance in order to increase the effective participation of developing countries in international decision-making;

409.4 *Urge* developed countries to engage in effective partnerships such as the NEPAD and other similar initiatives with the developing countries, particularly the LDCs, for the purposes of the realisation of their right to development including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

409.5 *Stress* adherence to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and to the Founding Principles of the Movement, and *oppose and condemn* selectivity and double standards in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as all attempts to exploit or use human rights as an instrument for political purposes;

409.6 Reaffirm the need to preserve the mechanism of Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council from politicisation and double standards, and to prevent its misuse and manipulation in order to preserve the cooperative approach in the Human Rights Council;

409.7 *Reinforce* the presence of the Non-Aligned Movement by advancing its position during the deliberations taking place in the main international fora, particularly the Human Rights Council, the ECOSOC, and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly as a contribution to the enhancement of the coordination and cooperation among the above mentioned UN entities in the promotion and protection of all human rights;

409.8 *Update* and *introduce* at the Third Committee of the General Assembly and at Human Rights Council, as appropriate, draft resolutions on: the Right to Developm Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures; the promotion of the principle of equi geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, Enhancement of International Cooperation in the field of human rights and cons sponsoring other initiatives that promote respect for the principled positions of Movement in this field of the international cooperation;

409.9 *Promote and protect* all universally recognized human rights, in particular the rig development as a universal and inalienable right and as an integral part of all univer recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms;

409.10 The Ministers *reaffirmed* the objective of making the right to development a realit everyone as set out in the UN Millennium Declaration, and give due consideration to negative impact of unilateral economic and financial coercive measures on the realizatio the right to development;

409.11 *Urge* all States to ensure greater protection for their populations in comba terrorism and transnational crimes, and in this regard, *further urge* all States to ensure their national laws or legislations particularly concerning the combat against terrorism not limit individual rights and that these are not discriminatory or xenophobic; and urg States to ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligat under international law, in particular international human rights, refugees humanitarian law;

409.12 *Strive* for greater acceptance and operationalisation and realisation of the righ development at the international level, *urge* all States to undertake at the national necessary policy formulation and institute measures required for the implementation of right to development as a fundamental human right, and *further urge* all States to exp and deepen mutually benefiting cooperation with each other in ensuring development eliminating obstacles to development, in the context of promoting an effective internati co-operation for the realisation of the right to development, *bearing in mind* that las progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effe development policies at the national level as well as equitable economic relations an favourable economic environment at the international level;

409.13 *Urge* the UN human rights machinery to ensure the operationalisation of the righ development as a priority, including through the elaboration of a Convention on the Righ Development by the relevant machinery, *taking into account* the *recommendations* of relev initiatives;[29]

409.14 *Propose and work towards* the convening of a United Nations-sponsored High-L International Conference on the Right to Development;

409.15 *Mainstream* the right to development in the policies and operational activities of UN and its specialised agencies, programmes and funds as well as in policies and strate of the international financial and multilateral trading systems, *taking into account* in regard that the core principles of the international economic, commercial and finan

29 The recommendations of relevant initiatives include the High-level Seminar on the Operationalisation o Right to Development (Geneva, February 2004) held under the framework of the Commission on Hu Rights Working Group on the Right to Development, and the High-level Task Force on the Operationalisa of the Right to Development, as well as the recommendations of the 8th session of the Intergovernme Working Group on the Right to Development regarding the "roadmap", endorsed by the HRC throug Resolution 4/4, adopted by consensus in its 4th session.

spheres, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international co-operation, including effective partnerships for development, are indispensable in achieving the right to development and preventing discriminatory treatment to the issues of concern to the developing countries arising out of political or other non-economic considerations;

409.16 *Advance* the common positions and *improve* the coordination of the Movement at the relevant inter-governmental fora, in particular the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as well as the Human Rights Council, with the aim of strengthening international co-operation and co-ordination in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

409.17 *Encourage* the existing independent national human rights institutions, including Ombudsmen where they exist, to perform their constructive role, on the basis of impartiality and objectivity, in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in their Countries, and *request* in this context, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide greater assistance, upon request, by interested Governments in the establishment and operations of their national institutions;

409.18 *Call upon* the NAM members Countries and the international community to support the objective and effective functioning of the Human Rights Council established as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the UN, and *emphasize* the strong need to ensure that the work of the Council will be devoid of any politicisation, double standards and selectivity; and

409.19 *Defend* and *promote* NAM positions in the context of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and to that end:

(a) *Continue* holding the meetings of NAM Labour Ministers within the framework of each International Labour Conference;

(b) *Continue* to promote transparency and a more democratic participation of all actors in ILO mechanisms and procedures;

(c) *Follow up* and *underpin* the agreements contained in the Declaration of NAM Ministers of Labour, adopted at the Ministerial meeting held in Geneva in the context of the 96th International Labour Conference, regarding the reform of the working methods of the Committee of Application of Standards and the expansion of the Committee on Freedom of Association;

(d) *Call for* an active participation in the next Meeting of NAM Ministers of Labour, which will be held in June 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland, within the framework of the 98 International Labour Conference.

Racism, Racial Discrimination and Slavery

410. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their condemnation of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the platforms and activities related thereto, which constitute serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as impede equal opportunity. They reminded the international community to preserve its recognition that slavery and slave trade, including trans-Atlantic slave trade, are crimes against humanity, and that the legacies of slavery, slave trade, colonialism, foreign occupation, alien domination, genocide and other forms of servitude have manifested themselves in poverty, underdevelopment, marginalisation, social exclusion and economic disparities for the developing world.

411. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 61/19 and 62/122 related to the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and its consequences, as well as General Assembly resolution 63/5 related to the Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

412. The Ministers *endorsed* and *supported* the ongoing efforts towards the erection of a Permanent Memorial to the victims of slavery and the trans-Atlantic slave trade, to be prominently placed at the United Nations Headquarters. They *took note* of the establishment of a fund for this purpose, *expressed* appreciation to those of its members that have already made contributions towards it and *encouraged* others to follow suit.

413. The Ministers *expressed* grave concern at the negative effects on human rights and development posed by contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons and at the increasing vulnerability of States to such crimes. They *reaffirmed* the need to work collectively to combat contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons.

414. The Ministers *expressed* dismay at instances of religious and cultural prejudices, misunderstanding, intolerance and discrimination on the basis of religion or beliefs or different systems, which undermine the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and hinder the promotion of the culture of peace. Pluralism, tolerance, and understanding of religious and cultural diversity are essential for peace and harmony. Acts of prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, and racial, religious and sectarian profiling are affronts to human dignity and equality, and should not be condoned. Respect for democracy and human rights and the promotion of understanding and tolerance by governments as well as between and among minorities are central to the promotion and protection of human rights. They *reaffirmed* that States have the duty to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination and in full equality before the law.

415. In this context, the Ministers urged all States to actively contribute to the preparations for the celebration in 2010 of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), through different activities and initiatives at the national, regional and international levels, in coordination with UNESCO. They also called upon all States to consider the possibility of proclaiming a United Nations decade for interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace.

416. In recalling the Movement's opposition to all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and *expressing* serious concern on the resurgence of contemporary forms of such abhorrent crimes in various parts of the world, the Ministers *took note* of the ongoing progress made by States at the national, regional and international levels, focusing on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. To this end, the Ministers *urged* the Human Rights Council, through the Intergovernmental Working Group established to that effect, to proceed with the elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.

417. The Ministers endorsed the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference held in Geneva, 20-24 April 2009. In this regard, they reaffirmed the validity of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) as it was adopted at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001, as the instructive document which constitutes a solid foundation on the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

418. The Ministers reiterated the call on developed countries, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as international financial institutions, to honour the commitments contained at

Section IV of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action entitled "Provision of Effective Remedies, Recourse, Redress, and Other Measures at the National, Regional and International Levels".

419. The Ministers emphasized the need to address with greater resolve and political will all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in all spheres of life and in all parts of the world, including all those under foreign occupation.

420. The Ministers noted the resolve of the Durban Review Conference to, as stipulated in art. 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, fully and effectively prohibit any advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence and implement it through all necessary legislative, policy and judicial measures.

421. The Ministers called on all Member States, including those that did not participate at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001) as well as the Durban Review Conference (2009), to implement all the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference to fight the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

International Humanitarian Law

422. The Ministers *urged* that due priority should continue to be given to promoting knowledge of, respect for and observance of States Parties' obligations assumed under International Humanitarian Law, in particular those of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their 1977 Protocols, and they *encouraged* States to consider ratifying or acceding to the two 1977 Additional Protocols. In this regard, while taking into account the magnitude and persistence of the violations and breaches of International Law, including International Humanitarian Law, being committed by Israel, the Occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian territory, the Ministers called for the Government of Switzerland, as the depositary of the Geneva Conventions, to speedily arrange for a Conference for the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to adopt legal measures to ensure respect for and compliance with the Conventions in this situation.

423. The Ministers called upon all parties to armed conflict to redouble their efforts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, by, inter alia, prohibiting the targeting of civilian populations, civilian property and certain special property during an armed conflict, and obliging parties to any conflict to ensure general protection against dangers arising from military operations for civilian installations, hospitals and relief materials, means of transportation and distribution of such relief materials.

424. The Ministers *reiterated* the Movement's condemnation of the increasing attacks on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and *urged* the Governments of UN Member States to ensure respect for the protection of the personnel of humanitarian organisations in conformity with the relevant international law. Humanitarian agencies and their personnel should respect for the International Humanitarian Law and the laws of the countries they work in and the guiding principles of humanitarian assistance set forth in the General Assembly resolution 46/182 and its Annex and non-interference, as well as cultural, religious and other values of the population in the countries where they operate.

425. The Ministers recalled the protection granted by international humanitarian law and relevant human rights instruments to persons captured in connection with international armed conflicts.

426. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

426.1 *Invite* those States, which have not yet done so, to consider ratifying the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Additional Protocols;

426.2 *Urge* States to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law, in particular as provided in the Geneva Conventions, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and *further urge* the international community and the relevant organisations within the UN system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians under foreign occupation; and

426.3 *Stress* that all detainees or persons captured in connection with international armed conflicts must be treated humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity granted by international humanitarian law and relevant human rights instruments.

Humanitarian Assistance

427. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the provision of humanitarian assistance must not be politicised and must be in full respect of the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as set forth in General Assembly Resolution 46/182 and its annex as providing the guiding principles for the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and *emphasized* that all UN humanitarian entities and associated organisations must act in accordance with their respective mandates, international humanitarian law and national law. They further *reaffirmed* that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the UN Charter. In this context, they *stressed* that humanitarian assistance should be provided under the principle of request and consent of the affected country.

428. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Movement's commitment to enhance international cooperation to provide humanitarian assistance in full compliance with the UN Charter, and in this regard, they *reiterated* the rejection by the Movement of the so-called "right" of humanitarian intervention, which has no basis either in the UN Charter or in international law.

429. The Ministers emphasized the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirmed the need, in situations where military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with national law, international law, including humanitarian law, and in full respect of the principles set for in General Assembly Resolution 46/182.

430. The Ministers *called upon* the international community to provide full support, including financial resources, for emergency humanitarian assistance at all levels and *stressed* the need to maintain the follow-up, oversight and review by the General Assembly of the activities undertaken by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to ensure its functioning according to the agreed principles contained in the relevant UN resolutions, in particular General Assembly Resolution 46/182. They reaffirmed the importance of the prompt allocation of CERF's resources as part of the emergency humanitarian assistance to the affected country.

431. The Ministers reaffirmed that in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, United Nations humanitarian entities must continue to work in close coordination with national Governments and in line with national policies and programmes being implemented for the provision of assistance to affected populations, and the Ministers also reaffirmed that the United

Nations humanitarian entities must coordinate their work of providing humanitarian assistance to affected civilians living under foreign occupation in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

432. The Ministers urged efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected State, with a view to planning and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as sustainable rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

433. The Ministers *expressed* their concern over the human suffering and economic impact caused by the natural disasters throughout the world, in particular the tragic loss of life caused by natural disasters in China and Myanmar and many parts of the African continent. They *encouraged* the international community, national authorities and non-governmental organisations, to promote closer cooperation to respond to natural disasters by strengthening emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation and response management measures such as regional disaster, early warning systems as well as exchange of information.

434. The Ministers *expressed* their solidarity with Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Jamaica for the severe negative impact caused by the hurricanes that affected the Caribbean region in 2008 and expressed its readiness to explore the possibility to enhance their coordination and cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction among NAM countries in the future.

435. The Ministers further *encouraged* States to implement commitments related to assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and for disaster-stricken states in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes.

436. The Ministers recognized the importance of the Non-Aligned Movement to coordinate its positions on humanitarian assistance, and in this regard they requested the Coordinating Bureau to operationalize the NAM Contact Group on humanitarian affairs as decided at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana in 2006 as well as to consider the establishment of a NAM Working Group on humanitarian assistance and to discuss, agree and determine the terms of reference of such a Group as soon as possible. The Ministers agreed on the importance of strengthening mechanisms to provide aid and assistance to affected member states of the Movement, including the possibility of establishing an agency for disaster mitigation and displaced persons.

437. The Ministers call upon UN Member States, in this regard, to comply fully with the provisions of the international humanitarian law, in particular as provided in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of war, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian and other assistance to civilians under foreign occupation.

Information and Communication Technology

438. The Ministers *welcomed* the participation of the Heads of State and Government of the Movement in the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) at its second phase held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, and *reiterated* the need for the implementation and follow up of the outcomes of the both phases of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), held in Geneva and Tunis. In this context, they *stressed* the importance of the contribution of the Non-Aligned Countries toward achieving the development oriented outcomes of the Summits, the Tunis commitment and the full implementation of the agenda for the Information Society, and *urged* UN

Member States, relevant UN bodies and other intergovernmental organisations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organisations and private sector in implementation of the outcomes.

439. The Ministers by commending active participation of the Member States in the World Summit on the Information Society and taking *note* of the follow-up activities at international, regional and national levels, *reaffirmed* that in order to transform the digital divide to digital opportunities, these activities should ensure the imperative of universal, inclusive and non-discriminatory access to information and knowledge related to ICT, and should result in supporting national efforts in developing countries in the area of building, improving and strengthening capacities to facilitate their genuine involvement in all aspects of the information society and knowledge economy. They *encouraged* all the States to contribute actively to ensuring that the Information Society is founded on and stimulates respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions and ethical values.

440. The Ministers called for the responsible use and treatment of information by the media in accordance with codes of conduct and professional ethics Media in all their forms have an important role in the Information Society and ICTs should play a supportive role in this regard. They *reaffirmed* the necessity of reducing international imbalances affecting the media, particularly as regards infrastructure, technical resources and the development of human skills.

441. The Ministers highly commended Malaysia for chairing the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC-VI), and highly commended the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for successfully hosting the 7th Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC-VII), held in Isla Margarita, 2-4 July 2008 and for the substantive outcome document and Programme of Action, adopted by the Conference and they *expressed* the Movement's resolve and commitment to implement the decisions and recommendations contained therein.

442. The Ministers *concurred* on the importance of strengthening and consolidating the work of the NAM News Network (NNN). The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation to Malaysia for launching and supporting the NNN since its inception in 2003.

443. The Ministers *welcomed* the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) established in Geneva as an innovative financial mechanism of a voluntary nature open to interested stakeholders with the objective of transforming the digital divide into digital opportunities for the developing world by focusing mainly on specific and urgent needs at the local level and seeking new voluntary sources of "solidarity" finance. The DSF will complement existing mechanisms for funding the Information Society, which should continue to be fully utilized to fund the growth of new ICT infrastructure and services.

444. The Ministers *expressed* their opposition to the dissemination of discriminatory and distorted information of events taking place in developing countries. In this regard, they *strongly supported* the efforts made to revitalise the Broadcasting Organizations of Non Aligned Countries (BONAC), as an effective medium for transmitting factual news of events of the developing countries to the world. They also *took note* of the valuable experience of "The new south TV" (TELESUR) in this respect.

445. The Ministers *reiterated* their support for Tunis Agenda for Information Society, especially its development content and *stressed* the importance of effective participation of equitable and effective representation from developing countries in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS process, including for the Internet Governance Forum and for Enhanced Cooperation.

446. The Ministers underlined the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society that internet governance, carried out according to the Geneva principles, constitutes a core issue of the Information Society agenda and that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility

or international Internet governance and *invited* the Member States, to maximize their participation in decisions regarding Internet governance, in order to reflect their interests in related processes. They also *reaffirmed* the WSIS conviction on the need for enhanced cooperation, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. The Ministers expressed their deep concern over the long delay in starting the process towards enhanced cooperation by the UN Secretary General, as referred to in paragraphs 69 to 71 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of the second phase of the Summit. They therefore, once again, s*trongly urged* the UN Secretary General to start this process urgently.

447. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures and initiatives, among others:

447.1 Work for the full implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and in this context, promote effective and equitable participation of NAM countries in this process;

447.2 Increase cooperation to promote a New World Information and Communication Order, based on universal, inclusive and non-discriminatory access to information and knowledge relating to ICT, as an essential requirement to reduce the growing digital divide between developed and developing countries;

447.3 Call for an immediate end to the misuse of media for inciting and launching campaigns against NAM members, including, inter alia, the hostile use of radio and electronic transmissions contrary to the principles of the International Law, as well as the dissemination of discriminatory and distorted information of events in developing countries, and campaigns that defame religions, cultures and symbols;

447.4 Support and strengthen the implementation of the Isla Margarita Declaration and Programme of Action;

447.5 Coordinate NAM efforts in the issues related to communication and information at the United Nations and relevant international organizations and agencies, including UNESCO, particularly in the context of the Intergovernmental Program for the Development of Communications (IPDC).

Advancement of Women

448. The Ministers *recommitted* the Movement to the implementation of the Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women as well as *fully supported* the outcome of the five-year review and appraisal contained in "Further Actions and Initiatives" to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly of June 2000.

449. The Ministers encouraged the active participation of Member States in the 54th session of the CSW in the 15th annual review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly that shall take place in 2010.

450. The Ministers *expressed* their resolve to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child especially in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation, including the systematic use of abduction and rape by the parties to the conflict, including as an instrument of war, as well as the trafficking in and victimization of women and the girl child. They

expressed their abhorrence at the continuation of such acts. In this regard, they called upon States to take the necessary measures against the perpetrators of such acts and to ensure adherence to international law and domestic legislation, including legislating the protection of women and the girl child in situations of armed conflict. They further *invited* States, which have not done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and *encouraged* States Parties to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to its Optional Protocol.

451. The Ministers *took note* of the establishment of the gender branch within the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote and protect women's human rights within the context of the Human Rights Council. In this context, the Ministers cautioned that its operations should not be in conflict with the existing partnership between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Commission on the Status of Women. The Ministers *underscored* the fact that the Commission of the Status of Women has a broad mandate covering other social and economic dimensions beyond women's human rights.

452. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women that has a broad mandate covering all dimensions related to women's development, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

453. The Ministers *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the institutional reform of the UN and *stressed* that the purpose of the reform, including in the area of gender, is to make the UN development system more efficient and effective in its support to developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, on the basis of their national development strategies and that reform efforts should enhance organisational efficiency and achieve concrete development results.

454. The Ministers emphasized that the process of gender reform, as part of the system wide coherence process, should not create new conditionalities for developing countries and should have as a result an enhanced coordination, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in the United Nations system for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women by all United Nations Member States.

455. The Ministers in order to promote the human rights of women *expressed* their resolve to take appropriate measures at the national, regional and international levels to improve the quality of life and achieve gender equality and empowerment of women, bearing in mind the inherent potential of women, through inter alia adopting proper socio- economic strategies and programmes and provisions of government services to all women particularly women with disabilities and women in rural areas, including access to health, education and justice services and strengthening family well-being.

456. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their compromise to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, ensuring full representation and full and equal participation of women as critical factor in the eradication of poverty.

457. The Ministers also reaffirmed its continued support to The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and to INSTRAW's Executive Board for its contribution, through its substantive work, to the advancement and empowerment of women and particularly acknowledged INSTRAW's progress in the development of pioneering research, knowledge management and capacity building tools in the Institute's three thematic areas: Gender, migration and development; Gender, peace and security; and Governance and women's political participation, to create an impact in public policies with a gender perspective

in our countries. The Ministers reaffirmed INSTRAW's importance as one of the only three United Nations entities located in the developing world.

458. The Ministers recalled with satisfaction the Second NAM Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women, held in Guatemala City, Republic of Guatemala, from 21 to 24 January 2009 and *reaffirmed* the Movement's resolve and commitment to fully implement the decisions and recommendations contained in the "Guatemala Declaration and Programme of Action on the Advancement of Women towards the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals".

459. The Ministers *welcomed* the generous offer of the State of Qatar to host the Third NAM Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women in Doha in 2010.(to move after Para. 358)

460. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of the establishment and the functioning of the NAM Institute for the Empowerment of Women in Kuala Lumpur and *underscored* their commitment to actively support it and participate in its activities. The Ministers *took note* with appreciation of the offer of the Government of Guatemala to host a regional representation of NIEW for Latin America and the Caribbean.

461. The Ministers welcomed the decision of the Second NAM Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women held in Guatemala to create a NAM Institute for the Empowerment of Women (NIEW) Trust Fund, proposed by Malaysia, to allow the Institute to continue to enhance its activities dedicated to women's empowerment and development for the benefit of the NAM members, and in this regard, invites NAM members to voluntarily contribute to this Fund.

462. The Ministers welcomed the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on holding the International Workshop on "Empowerment of Women through Science and Technology Interventions" through the assistance of the Center for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM S&T Center) and other developing countries in Tehe: an on 14-16 December 2008.

463. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the Resolution 62/136 on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas and *recognized* the important role played by rural women in their societies and the need to fully implement the relevant provisions of that resolution in order to empower rural women and improve their situation.

464. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measure and initiatives, among others:

> 464.1 *Hold* the Third NAM Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women in 2010, in Doha, State of Qatar. In this regard, they *urged* all NAM members to participate actively in the Meeting.

Indigenous Peoples

465. The Ministers *took note* with deep appreciation of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly. Likewise, they *reiterated* their support for the need to promote the economic, political and cultural rights of the indigenous peoples and their commitment to give special attention to the efforts made at the national and multilateral levels in order to improve their living conditions through civil participation. Likewise, in face of undue appropriation and use of the traditional indigenous knowledge, they *agreed* to promote the defence of the bio-cultural collective heritage to allow indigenous peoples to have appropriate legal instruments on intellectual property so that their traditional knowledge is protected against unauthorized or inappropriate use by third parties.

466. The Ministers also *supported* the need to promote within the UN system, in particular its agencies, funds and programmes, the rights of indigenous peoples, through a series of policies and programmes for the improvement of indigenous peoples' well-being around the world and, where applicable, through the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

467. The Ministers *took note* with appreciation of the adoption of the Human Rights Council resolution 6/36 of 14 December 2007 that established the expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples to provide the Council with thematic expertise on the rights of indigenous peoples.

Illiteracy

468. The Ministers *expressed* their deep concern over the fact that around 75 million children had no access to primary education, 774 million adults are illiterate and more than two-thirds of these illiterates can be found in Africa and Asia. Without accelerated progress towards education for all, national and internationally agreed targets for poverty reduction would be missed, and inequalities between countries and within societies would widen. In this regard, they *reiterated* the Movement's continued support and full commitment to cooperate in attaining the MDGs and the goals of the UN Literacy Decade (2003-2012).

469. In this context, the Ministers decided to give priority attention to the development of cooperation schemes among NAM Members States, as well as to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation to effectively address and eradicate illiteracy, in the fulfilment of the second MDG by 2015. The Ministers *acknowledged* the progress made in the implementation of various literacy initiatives recognized by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

470. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Resolution 63/154 on United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all. The Ministers took note of the three priority areas for the remaining years of the Decade identified through the mid-Decade review, namely, mobilizing stronger commitment to literacy, reinforcing more effective literacy programme delivery and harnessing new resources for literacy.

471. The Ministers decided to create literate environments and societies, eradicating illiteracy, including among women and girls and eliminating the gender gap in literacy, inter alia, by intensifying efforts to implement effectively the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade and integrating substantially those efforts in the Education for All process and other activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as other literacy initiatives within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Health, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other communicable diseases

472. The Ministers *expressed* their concern at the global threat posed by health epidemics, such as HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases. In this context, they *called on* the Member States of the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels to enhance their cooperation to confront and combat these scourges.

473. The Ministers *recognized* that the spread of HIV/AIDS constitutes a global emergency and poses one of the most formidable challenges to the development, progress and stability of their respective societies and the world at large, and requires an exceptional and comprehensive global response. They *welcomed* the political declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted by the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS of the United Nations General Assembly on 2 June 2006, and *called on* Member States of the United Nations to significantly scale up their efforts towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, and towards halting and reversing the spread of the pandemic by 2015, and thereby, called upon all States, especially developed countries to implement fully these commitments, and *urged* the international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the business sector to support national efforts and priorities.

474. The Ministers *recognized* the achievement of South-South cooperation in the fight against HIV and AIDS and decided to give priority attention to the development of cooperation schemes among NAM Member States, as well as to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation to effectively address HIV and AIDS in the fulfilment of MDGs 6 and 8. In this regard, they *welcomed* the organization of the High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in New York, 10-11 June 2008.

475. The Ministers *expressed* grave concern over the serious threat posed by the spread of Avian Influenza since its first major reported outbreak, which has potential to produce severe impact not only on public health worldwide but also on the global economy. They *reiterated* that it is imperative that concerted actions be undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to address this challenge in an effective and timely manner.

476. The Ministers highlighted the organisation of the Meeting of NAM Ministers of Health, held 21 May 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland, and *expressed* their support to the outcome documents adopted therein and their determination and commitment to fully implement their decisions and recommendations and consistently follow up on these issues related to Migration and Training Qualified Health Personnel, Diseases disproportionately affecting developing countries, and Responsible practices at the international level for sharing of avian influenza viruses and ensuring benefits sharing in ways that would protect the interest of developing countries.

477. The Ministers *called* for an active participation in the next Meeting of NAM Ministers of Health, which will be held in May 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland, within the framework of the 62nd General Assembly of the World Health Organization.

478. The Ministers welcomed the evolving partnerships between a variety of stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels aimed at addressing the multifaceted determinants of global health and the commitments and initiatives to accelerate progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals, including those announced at the high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2008.

Transnational Organised Crime

479. The Ministers *reiterated* the Movement's commitment to co-ordinate the efforts and strategies at national, regional and international levels against transnational crime and to develop the methods most effective in combating crime of this nature. They *reaffirmed* that international efforts against transnational crime should be carried out with the necessary respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

480. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that organised criminal activities adversely affect developmen political stability and social and cultural values.

481. The Ministers *reiterated* that responding to the threat posed by transnational organised crim requires close cooperation at international level. They renewed their commitment to fight all forms transnational organized crime by strengthening national legal frameworks, where applicable, an cooperation mechanisms, in particular through the exchange of information, mutual leg assistance and extradition in accordance with domestic law and international instruments a appropriate.

482. The Ministers recalled that the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice and the Bangko Declaration recognized that comprehensive crime prevention strategies must address, inter alia, th root causes and risk factors of crime.

483. The Ministers *expressed* their concern about the seriousness of trafficking in human organ and the increasing involvement of organized criminal groups in this crime and they *agreed* coordinate their efforts to fight this crime.

484. The Ministers also *expressed* their concern over the loss, destruction and removal of th cultural property and the increased involvement of organised criminal groups in trafficking looted, stolen or smuggled cultural property. The Ministers underlined the importance of nationa regional and international initiatives for the protection of cultural property, in particular the work the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmenta Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitutio in Case of Illicit Appropriation, and *Stressed* the importance of fostering international la enforcement cooperation to combat trafficking in cultural property and in particular the need exchange information and experiences in order to operate in a more effective way.

485. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions, the Ministers *agree* to undertake the following measures, among others:

485.1 *Take* necessary steps at the national and international levels for the implementation the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the internationa instruments against illicit drug trafficking, where appropriate;

485.2 *Call for* adequate financial and technical assistance and cooperation to enab developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement those treaties

485.3 *Strengthen* international cooperation and technical assistance for capacity-building developing countries and countries with economies in transition for effective implementatio of the obligations set forth in existing international crime prevention instruments; and

485.4 *Adopt* further measures and *strengthen* international cooperation in order to preven combat, punish and eradicate all forms of transnational organized crime more effectively, accordance with international law;

485.5 *Strengthen* coordination and cooperation, as well as the formulation of commo strategies with the Group of 77 and China, through the Joint Coordinating Committe (JCC)[30], on issues relative to transnational organized crime to address the collective concern and promote the common interests of developing countries in international fora;

30 The JCC was established in 1994 with the principal purpose of enhancing collaboration, avoid duplicatio of efforts and provide greater efficiency in the attainment of common goals of the developing countries, a well as harmonising and coordinating the activities of the two groupings in the economic and social field within the context of South-South and North-South cooperation.

485.6 The Ministers *took note* of the results of the Fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, held in Vienna, from 8 to 17 October 2008.

Trafficking in Persons

486. The Ministers *expressed* concern that trafficking in persons is increasingly becoming a global scourge affecting all countries around the world and requires a concerted national and international response. They *stressed* the importance of the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, including, inter alia, in situations of armed conflict.

487. The Ministers further *welcomed* the establishment of the United Nations Global initiative to fight human trafficking (UNGIFT) to coordinate actions between the United Nations system, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in order to assist Governments, upon their request, to ensure the prosecution and prevention of human trafficking, as well as to ensure that victims are accorded all the necessary remedies and their human rights are fully protected.

488. The Ministers recognised that slavery and trafficking in persons continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international response. To that end, they *urged* all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of slavery and trafficking in persons to counter demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims and to bring perpetrators to justice.

489. The Ministers *reiterated* their invitation to all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, and following its entry into force, to implement the Protocol effectively, including by incorporating its provisions into national legislation and by strengthening criminal justice systems. They *expressed* the Movement's resolve to strengthen the capacity of the UN and other international organisations to provide assistance to Member States, upon request, in implementing the Protocol.

490. The Ministers *urged* all States, individually and through international cooperation, to increase efforts to counter trafficking in persons, including through their active contribution to shape a global partnership against slavery and trafficking in persons in the twenty-first century, aimed at improving coordination and information exchange, especially in protecting rights of victims of trafficking. To that end, they *recognized* the need for coherent and comprehensive approach of the United Nations to the problem of trafficking in persons and *encouraged* all states to accelerate the consideration of a global plan of action to be adopted by the General Assembly on combating trafficking in persons and in this regard the Ministers welcomed the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 63/194 entitled "improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons".

491. Bearing in mind the increased development of the phenomenon of the traffic in persons, the Ministers *invited* the States to prevent and fight this phenomenon by the reinforcement of the legislation in this field raising awareness and the setting up of national and local institutions dedicated to the fight against this scourge.

492. Recognizing that all countries are affected by trafficking in persons, the Ministers urged all States to encourage national efforts being made to combat this scourge and to work together in a collaborative manner and within a regional and international framework without imposing unilateral requirements on other States.

Drug Trafficking

493. The Ministers *expressed* grave concern at the worsening problem of illicit drug trafficking worldwide on account of its transnational and global nature, which constitutes a serious threat to the entire international community. They *reiterated* that more effective measures must be taken to prevent, combat and eradicate the world drug problem in all its aspects. They further, *recognized* that no single government can combat this menace alone successfully, given that criminal organisations linked to drug trafficking operate collectively in the territory of several countries and are multiplying traffic routes and distribution methods, therefore cooperation, co-ordination and committed action by all countries are essential to curb this crime. They *reiterated* that effective measures must be taken to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, which is also linked to illicit drugs trafficking.

494. Consistent with the said position, the Ministers *reiterated* that the fight against the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that should be tackled in a multilateral framework and that can only be dealt with effectively through meaningful international cooperation, and, it demands an integrated and balanced approach and should be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and other provisions of international law, in particular the respect for national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in their internal affairs; and based on the principles of equal rights and mutual respect. Likewise, the Ministers *expressed* concern over the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), while *welcoming* the decision of the 51st session of the Narcotic Drugs Commission, establishing an open-ended intergovernmental working group to review the financial situation of UNODC and submit recommendations thereof.

495. The Ministers called for increased efforts to prevent and combat all aspects of the world drug problem, including reduction of the demand. They also recognized the importance of appropriate or suitable strategies, including sustainable alternative development programmes and to improve preventative and increase alternative development strategies, in tackling the global drug problem while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

496. The Ministers *welcomed* the realization of the 52nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drug held in March 2009, and its ministerial segment, which constituted an important follow up on the principles and goals set at the 20th special session of the General Assembly in 1998 to enhance the cooperative efforts to combat the world drug problem in the forthcoming years.

Corruption

497. The Ministers *stressed* that corruption practices, including lack of sound international corporate governance, bribery, money laundering and transfer abroad of illegally acquired funds and assets undermine the economic and political stability and security of societies, undermines social justice and severely endangers the efforts of developing countries for sustainable development. They recognised that the UN Convention against Corruption provides universally accepted norms to prevent and combat corrupt practices, establishes the principle of asset recovery and transfer of assets of illicit origin and mechanism for international cooperation in this regard.

498. Consistent with the aforementioned positions, the Ministers *stressed* in particular the implementation of the provisions on asset recovery contained in Chapter V of the UN Convention against Corruption, which require States Parties to return assets obtained through corruption. The Ministers *emphasized* that one of the high priorities in the fight against corruption is to ensure the return of illegally acquired assets to the country of origin. The Ministers, therefore, *urged* all States

Parties and relevant international organizations, consistent with the principles of the Convention, in particular Chapter V, to facilitate the quick return of such assets, and to assist requesting States to build human, legal and institutional capacity to facilitate tracing, confiscation and recovery of such assets.

499. The Ministers, *noting* the results of the 2nd Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, 28 January-1 February 2008, *reaffirmed* the importance of coordinating positions on these issues, in particular through the promotion of best practices in combating corruption.

500. The Ministers called for an active participation and involvement in the work of 3rd Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which will take place in Qatar from 9th to 13th November, 2009, and stressed the importance to promote dialogue and international cooperation in this field.

Havana, Cuba

30 April 2009

Annex I: Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement (As of 30 April 2009)

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brunei Darussalam
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Dominica, Commonwealth of
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Jamaica
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Palestine
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Philippines
Qatar
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Somalia
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkmenistan
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Annex II: The Founding Principles of the Non-Aligned Movement

1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations, large and small.
4. Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country.
5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
6. Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defence to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers, and abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries.
7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. Promotion of mutual interests and co-operation.
10. Respect for justice and international obligations.

Annex III: The Principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture adopted in the 14th NAM Summit in Havana.

a. Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and International Law.

b. Respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States.

c. Recognition of the equality of all races, religions, cultures and all nations, both big and small.

d. Promotion of a dialogue among peoples, civilizations, cultures and religions based on the respect of religions, their symbols and values, the promotion and the consolidation of tolerance and freedom of belief.

e. Respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the effective implementation of the right of peoples to peace and development.

f. Respect for the equality of rights of States, including the inalienable right of each State to determine freely its political, social, economic and cultural system, without any kind of interference whatsoever from any other State.

g. Reaffirmation of the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination.

h. Non-interference in the internal affairs of States. No State or group of States has the right to intervene either directly or indirectly, whatever the motive, in the internal affairs of any other State.

i. Rejection of unconstitutional change of Governments.

j. Rejection of attempts at regime change.

k. Condemnation of the use of mercenaries in all situations, especially in conflict situations.

l. Refraining by all countries from exerting pressure or coercion on other countries, including resorting to aggression or other acts involving the use of direct or indirect force, and the application and/or promotion of any coercive unilateral measure that goes against International Law or is in any way incompatible with it, for the purpose of coercing any other State to subordinate its sovereign rights, or to gain any benefit whatsoever.

m. Total rejection of aggression as a dangerous and serious breach of International Law, which entails international responsibility for the aggressor.

n. Respect for the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

o. Condemnation of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and systematic and gross violations of human rights, in accordance with the UN Charter and International Law.

p. Rejection of and opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. In this context, terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation.

q. Promotion of pacific settlement of disputes and abjuring, under any circumstances, from taking part in coalitions, agreements or any other kind of unilateral coercive initiative in violation of the principles of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations.

r. Defence and consolidation of democracy, *reaffirming* that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social, and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their life.

s. Promotion and defence of multilateralism and multilateral organisations as the appropriate frameworks to resolve, through dialogue and cooperation, the problems affecting humankind.

t. Support to efforts by countries suffering internal conflicts to achieve peace, justice, equality and development.

u. The duty of each State to fully and in good faith comply with the international treaties to which it is a party, as well as to honour the commitments made in the framework of international organisations, and to live in peace with other States.

v. Peaceful settlement of all international conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

w. Defence and promotion of shared interests, justice and cooperation, regardless of the differences existing in the political, economic and social systems of the States, on the basis of mutual respect and the equality of rights.

x. Solidarity as a fundamental component of relations among nations in all circumstances.

y. Respect for the political, economic, social and cultural diversity of countries and peoples.

Annex II

MNOAL

MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT COORDINATING BUREAU

Havana, Cuba
27-30 April 2009

STATEMENT ON ZIMBABWE

The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement recalled their statement on Zimbabwe made at the XV Ministerial Conference in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran in July 2008 expressing their support for the resolution of the Zimbabwe situation.

In this regard the Ministers welcomed the signing of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) by the main political parties in Zimbabwe on 15 September 2008 and the formation of the inclusive Government on 13 February 2009, and commended the mediation efforts of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in this regard.

The Ministers urged all members of the Movement to support Zimbabwe as it implements its Short Term Economic Recovery Programme (STERP).

The Ministers further urged those states and parties that have imposed the unilateral sanctions against Zimbabwe to lift them in order not to undermine the country's and SADC's efforts to normalize the situation in Zimbabwe.

Annex III

MNOAL

MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT COORDINATING BUREAU
Havana, Cuba
27-30 April 2009

DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH MEXICO

The Ministers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries attending the Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau held on 27-30 April 2009, in Havana, Cuba, express their deep concern and solidarity with the Government and people of Mexico given the serious situation created by the swine influenza outbreak in that country.

The Ministers request the World Health Organization and the international financial organizations to provide full logistical and financial support to the Government and people of Mexico in their efforts to combat this epidemic promptly and effectively as well as to provide adequate assistance to other affected countries to prevent further outbreak of this disease.

In this regard, the Ministers call upon the World Health Organization in coordination with the Mexican authorities, to ensure a systematic and proper follow-up in order to effectively contain the further spread of this epidemic.

Annex IV

MNOAL

MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT COORDINATING BUREAU
Havana, Cuba
27-30 April 2009

SPECIAL DECLARATION ON THE WORLD ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS

The Ministers underscored that the economic and financial crisis with its multifaceted impact is one of the most serious threats facing the world today, in particular developing countries. They expressed their serious concern that the Non Aligned and other developing countries are and will increasingly be the most seriously affected by the crisis, more than industrialized countries, where it originated as a result of the structural imbalances and deficiencies of the prevailing international economic system. Hence, they called for a new international financial architecture, with equal voice and participation of developing countries. Furthermore, they underlined that measures taken to resolve the effects of the crisis should not be geared at preserving the serious flaws of the present international economic architecture, which has demonstrated to be unjust, inequitable and ineffective, nor selective in nature, but aimed at introducing the required structural reforms, and in no case should be at the expense of developing countries.

Annex V

MNOAL

MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT COORDINATING BUREAU

Havana, Cuba
27-30 April 2009

DECLARATION ON PALESTINE

1. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement considered the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the dramatic deterioration of the situation on all fronts. They stressed the importance of coordinated and principled approaches and strategies by the Movement to continue strongly supporting the Palestinian people and their leadership and underscored the need to provide both political and humanitarian support to assist the Palestinian people to overcome the current crisis and strengthen their ongoing efforts towards the realization of their inalienable human rights and freedom. In this regard, the Ministers stressed the imperative of urgent efforts to advance a peace process based on Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425, 1397, 1515 and 1850, the Madrid terms of reference and the principle of land for peace for the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace settlement and the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination in their independent and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

2. The Ministers reaffirmed their adherence to the principled positions adopted in this regard, including in the Declarations on Palestine adopted by the Committee on Palestine in September 2006 at the XIV Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government in Havana and in July 2008 at the XV Ministerial Conference in Tehran, and the clear positions concerning Palestine adopted by all other previous Summits and Ministerial Conferences of the Movement. The Ministers called for serious, active efforts to uphold these positions and the intensification of the collective efforts by the Movement towards achievement of a just, peaceful resolution of the question of Palestine in all its aspects.

3. The Ministers expressed their deep regret that the question of Palestine remains unresolved after the passage of more than sixty years since the 1948 Al-Nakba that befell the Palestinian people, by which they became a stateless and dispossessed people, dispersed and displaced from their homeland of Palestine, and that more than half of the Palestinian people continue to live in exile in refugee camps throughout the region and in the Diaspora.

4. The Ministers also expressed their deep regret that since 1967, for more than forty-two years, the Palestinian people have continued to suffer under Israel's brutal military occupation of their land and continue to be denied their fundamental human rights, including the right to self-determination and the right of the Palestine refugees to return in accordance with international law, the United Nations Charter and relevant resolutions. The Ministers condemned Israel's continuing unlawful military occupation and expressed their grave concern about the severe oppression, hardships and affronts to human dignity being endured by the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of the illegal and aggressive policies and practices being carried out by the occupying Power, including grave human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law.

5. The Ministers expressed their deep concern about the deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory at the political, economic, social, security, and humanitarian levels. The Ministers strongly condemned Israel's military aggressions against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip, by which the occupying Power has killed and injured thousands of Palestinian civilians by, *inter alia*,

use of excessive, indiscriminate force and extrajudicial executions and has caused vast destruction of homes, properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands. The Ministers also condemned the continuing illegal detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians, including hundreds of women and children and numerous elected officials, and called for their immediate release. They condemned all Israeli settlement activities by which the occupying Power has continued to colonize the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international law. They further condemned Israel's imposition of collective punishment on the Palestinian people by numerous illegal means and measures, including military reprisals, destruction of homes and properties and severe restrictions on freedom of movement. The Ministers demanded once again that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately and completely cease all such violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, which are tantamount to grave breaches for which the occupying Power must be held accountable.

6. The Ministers condemned in the strongest terms the recent Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the killing of more than 1,400 Palestinians, including hundreds of children and women, and the injury of more than 5,500 Palestinians, including by use of lethal and prohibited weaponry. They condemned Israel's wanton destruction of thousands of Palestinian homes; business properties; vital civilian infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity systems and roads; hospitals and ambulances; mosques; public institutions, including schools and national ministries; farms and agricultural land; and UN facilities in the Gaza Strip. They expressed their grave concern about the widespread devastation, trauma and despair caused by this military aggression among the civilian population. The Ministers demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, cease immediately its military aggression against the Palestinian people and called for respect of Security Council resolution 1860. They underscored the importance of reaching a permanent, durable ceasefire starting in the Gaza Strip and extending to the West Bank, expressing support for Egyptian efforts in this regard, as well as the necessity of allowing unimpeded humanitarian access and movement of persons and goods to meet the humanitarian, economic and recovery needs of the Palestinian people.

7. In this context, the Ministers stressed the necessity of upholding justice and international law and called upon the international community, including the Security Council, to ensure that thorough investigations are conducted of all the crimes and violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Gaza Strip. They called for serious follow-up of such investigations, aimed at holding accountable the perpetrators of such crimes and bringing an end to Israel's impunity and defiance of the law, including immediate action to follow-up the findings of the investigations by the UN Secretary-General's Board of Inquiry and the Human Right Council's fact-finding commission. The Ministers reaffirmed in this regard the obligations of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities.

8. The Ministers also reiterated their condemnation of Israel's inhumane and unlawful blockade of the Gaza Strip, which has resulted in the virtual imprisonment of the entire Palestinian civilian population there by obstructing their freedom of movement, including movement of sick persons, students and humanitarian personnel; their access to aid and all essential goods, including food, medicines and fuel, construction materials and commercial flows. They expressed serious concern about the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis due to the severe impact of the blockade, which has caused grave deterioration of socio-economic conditions, including widespread poverty, unemployment, hardship, declining health conditions and decay of infrastructure and institutions in all sectors.

9. The Ministers stressed that, in addition to violating human rights law, such collective punishment measures are tantamount to grave breaches of international humanitarian law. The Ministers thus demanded that Israel cease such illegal practices against the Palestinian people and permanent end its illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip by allowing for the immediate and sustained opening of all of the Gaza Strip's border crossings, in accordance with international humanitarian law, UN resolutions and the November 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access, necessary for alleviating the humanitarian crisis and for the urgent reconstruction and economic recovery needs of the Palestinian people.

10. The Ministers reiterated their strong condemnation of Israel's continuing unlawful campaign of settler colonization in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of escalating setter violence and terror against the Palestinian civilian population. They expressed grave concern in this regard about intensifying illegal colonization activities, including vast land confiscations; construction and expansion of settlements, settlement "outposts" and infrastructure; transfer of more Israeli settlers; construction of the Wall; home demolitions; excavations and the imposition of arbitrary, racist residency and movement restrictions on the Palestinian civilian population via a permit regime and hundreds of checkpoints throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around Occupied East Jerusalem.

11. The Ministers reiterated their deep concern about the extensive physical, economic and social devastation being caused by the Israeli settlements, Wall and checkpoints, which are severing the Palestinian Territory into separate areas, including several walled cantons; isolating East Jerusalem from the rest of the Territory; displacing thousands of Palestinians from their homes; causing severe damage to the economic, social and cultural fabric of the Palestinian society; and destroying some communities in their entirety. They cautioned that this illegal colonization campaign is gravely undermining the contiguity, integrity, viability and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and jeopardizing the prospects for achieving the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders with the establishment of the sovereign, independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

12. In this regard, the Ministers expressed their grave concern in particular about the situation in and around East Jerusalem, where Israel's colonization campaign is most intense and clearly aimed at illegally altering the city's demographic composition, physical character and legal status. They condemned Israel's settlement and Wall construction, transfer of more settlers, home demolitions and excavations in and around the city, including in the area of Al-Haram Al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary) in the Old City, its continued closure of Palestinian institutions, and other measures aimed at de-populating the city of its Palestinian inhabitants and entrenching the occupying Power's unlawful control of the city. They called for urgent action to halt all Israeli colonization measures to illegally and unilaterally determine the fate of East Jerusalem, capital of the future Palestinian State.

13. The Ministers reiterated their complete rejection of and their demand that Israel completely cease forthwith all such colonization policies and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The Ministers reiterated that such aggressive, destructive and provocative policies and measures by the occupying Power constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law and flagrant defiance of UN resolutions and the 9 July 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice. They stressed the incompatibility of peace process negotiations with such colonization activities deliberately aimed at the illegal acquisition and *de facto* annexation of more Palestinian land and forcibly imposing a unilateral solution. In this regard, they further reaffirmed the many UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions demanding the cessation of these illegal policies and practices, which deemed them to be null and void and with no legal validity whatsoever, and called for full respect and implementation of those resolutions to bring an end to Israel's illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to salvage the two-State solution for peace.

14. In the face of continued Israeli defiance, the Ministers called for urgent action by the international community to compel the occupying Power to abide by all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, UN resolutions, the Advisory Opinion and the Road Map. The Minister called on the High Contracting Parties to uphold their obligations in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention to respect and ensure respect of the Convention in all circumstances. Moreover, they reiterated their call upon Member States and the UN to uphold their obligations in accordance with the Advisory Opinion and the demands made in resolution ES-10/15, including the obligation not to recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the Wall and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such construction. They called upon the UN Security Council and General Assembly to consider further action to bring an end to the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this

regard, they called again for the expeditious operation of the *"United Nations Register of Damage"* and the speedy fulfillment of its mandate. The Ministers also reiterated their call for specific actions to be taken including by legislative measures, collectively, regionally and individually, to prevent any products of the illegal Israeli settlements from entering their markets, consistent with obligations under international treaties, to decline entry to Israeli settlers and to impose sanctions on companies and entities involved in construction of the Wall and other illegal colonization activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

15. Further, in this regard, the Ministers called for application of all appropriate and available legal remedies to end the human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law being committed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to hold it accountable. They reiterated their firm conviction that respect for and compliance with international law and UN resolutions and decisions will positively influence and are necessary to advance the efforts for achieving a just, peaceful, political settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

16. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian Authority under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, and emphasized the importance of maintaining and protecting the national and democratic institutions of the Palestinian Authority, including the Palestinian Legislative Council, which shall constitute a vital foundation for the future independent Palestinian State. They called for urgent efforts to rehabilitate and develop Palestinian institutions and stressed the need for mobilization of Palestinian capabilities to preserve the territorial unity and integrity of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to end the occupation and to achieve the independence of the State of Palestine. The Ministers reiterated their call for restoration of the situation in the Gaza Strip to that which existed prior to the events of June 2007 and stressed the importance and urgency of Palestinian reconciliation and unity. They expressed their support for Egyptian and regional efforts in this regard and their hope for speedy achievement of reconciliation, essential for the realization of the just, legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people.

17. The Ministers called for intensified efforts by the international community, in particular the Security Council and the Quartet, to address the current political and humanitarian crisis, to ameliorate the situation on the ground and to help advance a peace process and a two-State settlement that guarantees an end of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that began in 1967, and the establishment of the sovereign, independent, and viable state of Palestine within a specified timeframe as well as a just solution for the Palestine refugee problem on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194 (III). They stressed that such a settlement is essential for the promotion of comprehensive peace and security in the region. They called upon the Security Council, considering its Charter authority for maintenance of international peace and security, to actively engage the Quartet for advancement of such a peace settlement. They stressed in this regard the continuing relevance of the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map and called for its full and honest implementation. In this connection, they emphasized the importance of the timely convening of the proposed international conference in Moscow in follow-up of the Annapolis Conference.

18. The Ministers reaffirmed the permanent responsibility of the UN towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all aspects on the basis of international law. In this context, reaffirming the imperative of upholding international law and the UN Charter, the Ministers reiterated their call upon the Security Council to assume its responsibilities and to act on the basis of its own resolutions to compel Israel to respect international law and to bring an end to all of its illegal practices and its occupation. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the members of the NAM Caucus of the Security Council for their efforts concerning Palestine and called upon them to continue coordination on the issue and to remain actively involved, with a view to enhancing the role played by the Movement in the international drive to achieve a just solution to the question of Palestine and lasting peace in the region as a whole.

19. The Ministers thus reaffirmed their conviction that a vital role should continue to be played by the Movement vis-à-vis the question of Palestine and entrusted the Chair, assisted by the Committee on

Palestine, to lead the efforts of the Movement with regard to the pursuit of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region. They stressed the importance of active contacts and dialogue by the Movement at the Ministerial level with the members of the Quartet, the members of the Security Council and other relevant parties in the peace process in order to convey the Movement's principled positions and advance efforts aimed at promoting the peace process and at ensuring respect for international law and UN resolutions, the keys to a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.

20. The Ministers underscored the importance of the work of non-governmental organizations, civil society and peace groups, particularly on the Palestinian and Israeli sides, and encouraged them to continue their positive work.

21. In conclusion, the Ministers reaffirmed their long-standing, principled political support and solidarity with the just cause of Palestine, reaffirming their strong commitment to continue supporting the Palestinian people and their leadership, including by provision of assistance during this time of crisis, in contribution to the overall efforts to bring an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and to hasten the realization of a just, peaceful and permanent solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and of the right of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in their independent State of Palestine, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.